TOTAL **internet**

The Complete Guide to the Net

volume one • issue six

The Definitive Web Directory

Over 550 Web Sites Reviewed and Listed

Shock! Horror!

Is the Internet grinding to a halt? Find out in our special report

THE DAY THE WEB STOOD STILL

WEB TV

We put the first UK Set-Top Box to the test in our in-depth review

Channel Hopping

How have the Net Channels progressed? We put them through their paces...

WIN!

Flashback Mobile Office, books and much more up for grabs!

Live And Kicking!

Join Total Internet's first live Net broadcast and win top prizes!

CyberEssentials

The full lowdown on the latest high-tech gadgets to improve your Net experience

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volume one
issue six
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New!

Doom 64

Blast Corps

FIFA 64

Reviewed!

Turok

Reviewed!

Guide!

The dawn of

Total 64 - The biggest, brightest

Total 64

The Ultimate Magazine For the ultimate new console!

TOTAL 64 is an authoritative new magazine for the console that has taken the nation by storm. The N64 will revolutionise the way you play games and TOTAL 64 is the revolutionary new magazine that will accompany it.

TOTAL 64 reviews all the top Nintendo 64 releases in an in-depth, no-holds-barred manner. Add to this massive features and previews on all the latest games, up-to-the-minute Nintendo 64 news and a host of top hints, tips and cheats to cracking the biggest releases for the most exciting games magazine ever!

a new era!

magazine for Nintendo 64 gamers!

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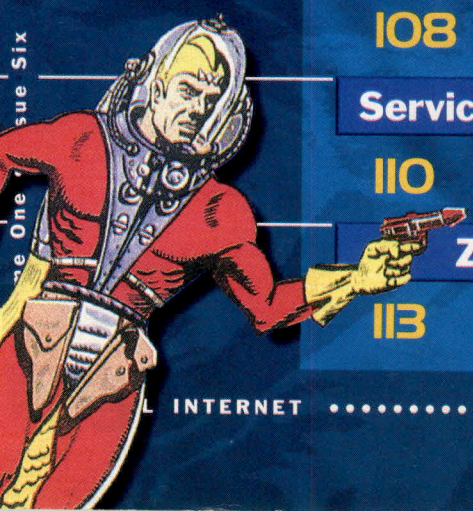

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Online Anonymity

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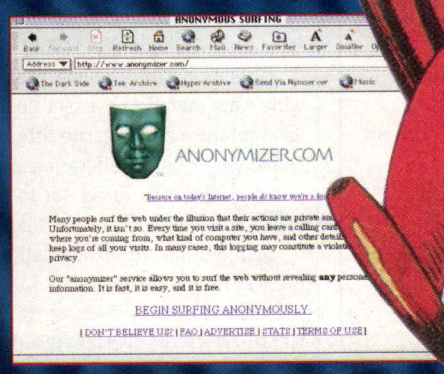
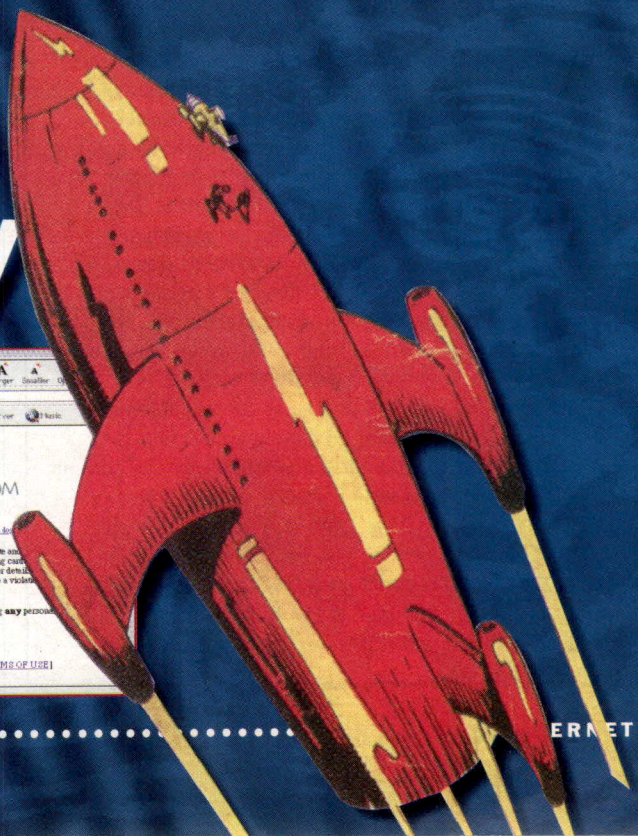
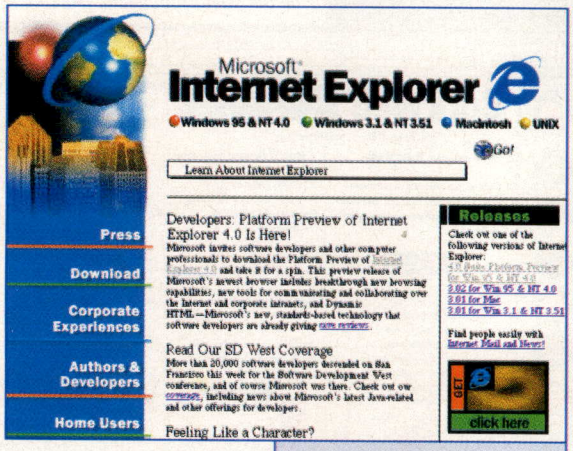




News

Explorer 4 - Beta Now Available!



Now surfers can enjoy the latest version of Explorer.

Microsoft have unveiled their vision for the future of Internet client technology, with the announcement of *Internet Explorer 4.0. IE 4*, which they are calling a 'next-generation' Internet client, will offer many improvements over version 3.0. The current release version is intended for software developers or corporate evaluators, rather than the everyday surfer. It offers seamless integration into the *Win95* OS, which ensures that the users have a consistent way of organising their data. It will also come with not only the standard abilities such as email and newsgroups but also video conferencing, application sharing, and Webcasting 'push' capabilities. "*Internet Explorer 4.0* aims to dramatically advance the way users experience the Internet," said Andrew Lees, director of Internet and desktop products at Microsoft. He added: "We've combined push capabilities, desktop integration and the latest in browsing and communication technologies to deliver the best of the PC and the best of the Web."

IE 4.0 will also support a new channel definition format, an open, — and supposedly easy to master —format for the publishing or Web-Standard channels that allow the publishers to optimise the broadcast of their data. *IE* will also be compatible with Dynamic HTML, which will also be a part of the next generation of WWW content.

Microsoft are calling it the most configurable and easy to use Internet solution currently available, and they are very excited about the whole thing. The current beta is likely to be a little unstable, and far from complete. Currently there is no Mac version available, but the *Win95*/NT version can be obtained from **http://www.microsoft.com/ie/** — if you get an error saying that the page is too busy to handle your request, just bear with it! It's a very popular site.

So what's happened in and around the Internet industry this month? Our team of experienced surfers tracked down the latest stories...

Tesco Vs Pammy

Due to the success of Tesco's first Internet superstore, which was officially launched in November, the company has announced that they will be adding another five virtual shops, expanding their geographical coverage of the UK. And those behind the project feel that if it continues to grow, the company could become as popular on the Net as the ex-Baywatch beauty Pamela Anderson Lee.

"The Launch of web shopping with the first shop has proved so successful, that we are now in the top ten most popular web-sites in the UK. If these levels of growth continue, we might become as popular as Pamela Anderson — the UK's current Web favourite" says Jon Higgins, IT Manager at Tesco.

Tesco think they can become as popular on the Net as Pamela.

The home-shopping services will soon be available for those in Hammersmith, Sutton, Romford, Leeds and Lea Valley, with each store offering a choice of around 20,000 products.

The decision to release another five stores was explained by Jon: "In the early days, many users came only to look but now they visit the site to shop. They obviously enjoy the experience, as over 80 per cent of them return again and again. The Dell servers are powerful enough that we can add further stores without reducing performance."

For more information, you should visit the Tesco home page, situated at **http://www.tesco.co.uk.**

Global Challenge for Youngsters

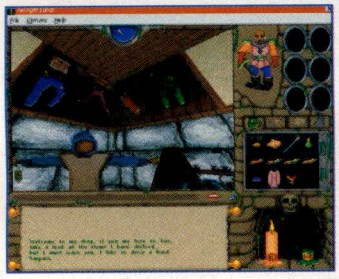
Children and young people aged between 7 and 18 years in the UK, South Africa and the Eastern Seaboard, United States, can now join BT's Global Challenge (BTGC) on the Internet.

Offering exciting online projects such as live chat sessions, interviews with crew members, vessel design, virtual voyage and online rescue attempts, the challenge — in collaboration with BT Campus World — looks set to be a hit with young people around the world.

Schools and other educational organisations interested in joining up to the club should sail along to **http://www.btchallenge.com.**

E-On Enter Twilight Land

Entertainment Online are soon to add to their portfolio of multi-player games with the addition of *Twilight Lands*, a 3D Internet role-playing game.



Similar to 3DO's *Meridian 59*, users get to create their own character, taking on the powers of either a warrior, sorcerer or cleric. Then it's time to enter a world where you can rescue fellow players, battle against evil and search for lost treasure. Once you've completed enough missions, you will be honoured with the power of forming your very own clan and with more people on your side, you'll be even stronger for the tasks ahead.

The creators hope that the sheer interactivity of the game will make users come back for more and claim that there's no other multi-player experience on the Net that comes close to *Twilight Lands.*

For more information, check out **http://www.e-on.com** or wait for next month's TOTAL INTERNET where we'll feature a full review of the game...

Visit http://www.e-on.com *for more information on their latest game.*

Zynet Link with Eurobell

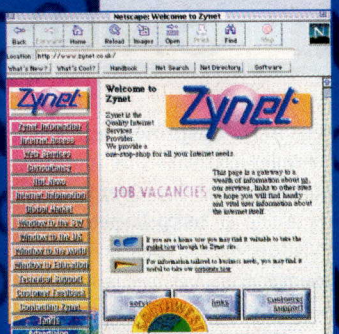
Exeter based Internet Service Provider, Zynet, has joined forces with Eurobell Plc in the attempt to create a new driving force in the development of Internet services. They believe that the partnership will provide a great opportunity for many enhancements to be made.

Telecommunications and cable company, Eurobell, has taken over the services which Zynet delivers via the telephone network and will be investing in their development. Zynet will continue to be the company that manages the services and customers should benefit from the strengths of both of the companies together.

Zynet's Managing Director, Nova Fisher talked about the move: "I am delighted to be involved in this new venture. Opportunities now exist for further development of new Internet products and provision of additional services, which is great news for all existing and future customers".

Zynet's home page can be found at **http://www.zynet.co.uk/**.

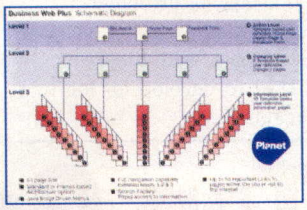
Zynet have now joined with Eurobell!



Web Page Templates

ISP Planet Online has produced a range of home page templates, designed to save time and money, giving businesses the chance to easily establish presence on the World Wide Web.

Three packages are available; basic, mid-range and advanced. Each follows a standard template which is then tailored to include company colours and logos. They all also include a home page, mailback facility, user definable categories and information pages.



Steve Pearce of Planet Online said: "All businesses have recognised the need to obtain a presence on the Internet but not all of them have the time or the knowledge to design and create the pages. Planet Online is offering these companies a quick but effective solution to obtaining a professional presence on the Web."

Visit **http://www.theplanet.net** for more information on their products.

WHY DO FEET SMELL?

All scientific questions can now be answered at the revitalised *New Scientist Planet Science Home Page.* Found at **http://www.newscientist.com**, six new areas can be discovered, looking at everything from science books to related jobs.

FREE MUSIC TRACKS

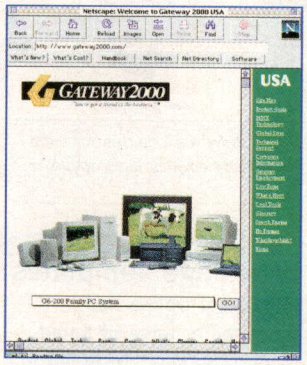
WeezyGoose are making available over 30 minutes worth of free tracks for download in *RealAudio* format. Visit their home page for more information. It can be found at **http://www.weezygoose.demon.co.uk**.

AIR UK GOES NETWORK WIDE

After the success of air flight bookings over the Internet from London Stansted airport, Air UK has made the move to widen its service to all flights originating in the UK. Their Web site can be found at **http://www.airuk.co.uk**. for more info.

News

Gateway 2000 Acquires Amiga



There's been big news in the computer industry this month, as Gateway's offer to Acquire the assets of Amiga Technologies was excepted, meaning that production and development of the Amiga should continue sometime this year. The move will mean that Amiga Technologies will now be renamed Amiga International.

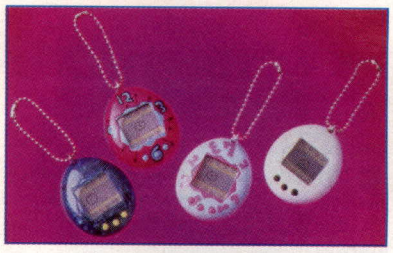
The company is a subsidiary of Escom AG, a German based computer company that went into bankruptcy in July of last year. Amiga led the industry in combining computer graphics, animation and film sequences with stereo sound — a process known as multimedia.

"This acquisition is good news for Gateway and customers of AMIGA," says Rick Snyder, president and COO of Gateway 2000. "It will strengthen our intellectual property position and invigorate a company that has been a pioneer in multimedia solutions and operating systems technology".

Petro Tyschtschenko, who will work to develop new products for the Amiga market commented briefly: "Gateway 2000 will give us new life and energy for the future."

There are hopes that Gateway will take the Amiga into the next century and if all goes well, the major Internet companies should start to develop for the machine. Let's cross our fingers.

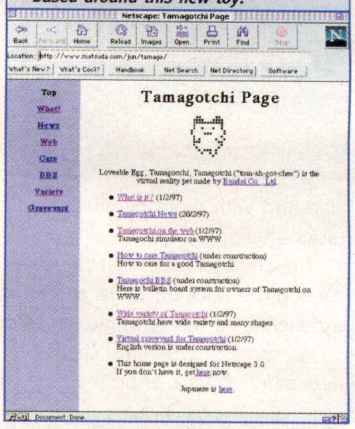
Tamagotchi?



A virtual pet that has taken the Japanese by storm is soon to have the same effect in the UK, when the product (sorry — pet) is launched in the UK at the end of May. More than 3 million Tamagotchis or 'lovable eggs' have been sold in Japan. They have generated so much interest that whole home pages have been set up and Tamagotchi simulators are now available though Web sites. One can be found at **http://www.matsuda.com/jun/tamago/.** Basically, you keep the product on you and care for the pet which is seen on a LCD screen. If you don't care for it, feed it and love it then soon it will pop its clogs.

The longest recorded life of a Tamagotchi is 26 days, but the UK are expected to break this, due to the fact that we're a caring nation of pet lovers.

There are quite a few home pages based around this new toy.



Web Surfing – Not Just Anoraks?

A two year survey compiled by CIA MediaLap Sensor has revealed that women and middle-aged people will be the next major groups to make use Internet. Apparently, it's no longer the preserve of academics, students or anoraks — the fastest growing groups of people gaining interest in surfing are in fact women and those aged between 35 and 54.

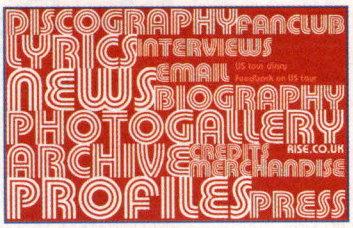
Top Gear Skids Online

The BBC **(http://www.bbc.co.uk)** have just launched their first commercial Web site. And if you like being in the driving seat, then the official *Top Gear* home page should be right up your alley — now online at **http://www.topgear.com.**

Visitors to the speedy site can take an interactive ride with presenter with Jeremy Clarkson, as he puts various sportscars through their paces. Another area lets Quentin Wilson find you the right car from a database of over 4,000 and other sections keep you updated with latest news from the car scene.

For £10, Formula One fans can enter Fantasy Formula One to win lots of prizes, including scalextric tracks, computer games, champagne and the FF1 manager of the season will travel to the 1998 Australian Grand Prix!

Battle of the Music Sites



The Brit Awards have passed but there was another music battle going on last month, as various artists and music related companies took each other on, in the bid to grab some of the awards on offer in the industry's first new media awards.

Organised by the online music magazine *dotmusic* (**http://www.dotmusic.com**) and Music Week, there were three categories: Best Artist Web site, Best Web site Design and Best Music Related Web site. The judging panel comprised of eight names in the music industry, with Sony and Radio 1 representatives amongst them.

"These awards reward the best web sites in the music industry and set a benchmark for others to follow and to exploit the potential of this exciting new medium" said *dotmusic*'s commercial manager, Chris Sice.

If you can't wait for next month's issue for the results then visit the *dotmusic* home page. For now though, here are a list of all the pages shortlisted for each category

BEST ARTIST WEB SITE

Pulp **http://www.rise.co.uk/pulp**
The Spice Girls **http://channel3.vmg.co.uk/spicegirls**
EBTG **http://raft.vmg.co.uk/ebgt**
Café del Mar **http//www.react-music.co.uk**

BEST MUSIC RELATED WEB SITE

Capital Radio **http://www.capitalFM.co.uk**
Channel 3 **http://chennel3.vmg.co.uk**
The Raft **http://raft.vmg.co.uk**
Parlophone **http://www.parlophone.co.uk**

BEST WEB DESIGN

Kula Shaker **http://www.kulashacker.co.uk**
Music Network **http://www.music-network.com**
Real World **http://realworld.on.net**
Perfecto **http://www.perfecto.co.uk**

GLOBAL VILLAGE TEAM UP WITH BT INTERNET

Communications company, Global Village, has announced that its Teleport 33.6 modem (£129) for Macintosh users will now include BT Internet software. For more information, contact Global Village on 0900 420 421 or visit their home page, **http://www.globalvillage.com.**

TONY THE TIGER GETS NETTED

Whether you're a fan of Corn

Flakes or love the taste of Frosties, you'll be able to find out all the brekkie information you need at the Kelloggs' home page (**http://www.kelloggs.com**) which has recently opened. Just remember these age old words of cereal wisdom — "If you don't see Kellogg's on the box...
...it isn't Kelloggs in the box."

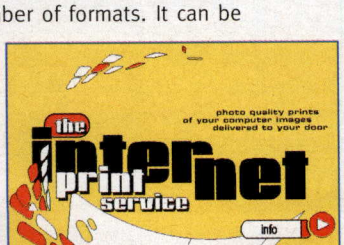
Kodak Launch Web Print Service

Have you ever found an image on the Web and wanted to have a top quality print made from it? If you have then Kodak have set up an ideal new service — Kodak Internet Print Services, or KIPS.

Users simply email their image to Kodak, who will then produce high quality prints and dispatch them by first class post to any chosen address. The person submitting the images doesn't even have to move from their workstation — once the email is sent, Kodak handle the rest of the work.

The finished product will be delivered on A4 size photographic paper with a maximum picture area of 9.5" X 6.3. A single print is priced at £7.99 (inc P&P) with additional prints, at the time of order, costing £4.99.

In addition, KIPS offers software packages free of charge, that enable users to display their images in a number of formats. It can be downloaded from the KIPS home page, **http://www.ektranet.com.**



Jerry Cook, Manager of Business Development for Kodak Research & Development said: "We see the launch of KIPS as the start of a fun, interactive digital imaging club on the Internet — open to anyone interested in discovering more about the art and science of digital imaging."

Competition Winners

Congratulations to those who managed to win prizes in issue three of TOTAL INTERNET!

HELIUM BALLOON GIVEAWAY

B Metcalfe, DJ Morgan, S Warner, S Hayes, Nigel Winters, Angela Cowley, John Forster-Heatlie, Steve Ketteringham, P Bennet, M Burns.

PILOT COMPO

Ken Ironside, Alan Hinton, James Calvert.

JFAX ACCOUNTS

Lee Davies, Jackie Brennan, Albert Goodman.

News

PRIDE TRUST ONLINE

July 5th marks the annual Pride Festival for the Gay community. And to coincide with the event, a home page has been launched at **http://pride.org.uk** to give visitors an idea of what will be going on.

ALFA ROMEO LAUNCH NEW SITE

If you want to find out details on Alfa Romeo's cars then their spanking new home page can now be found at **http://www.alfamromeo.co.uk.** Users can also get plenty of information on the history of the company and as browse though a database of used cars as well.

ONLINE TRAINING

A new Internet Training Centre has just been set up to publish and disseminate low cost and free training materials for professional trainers, other educators, all librarians and any others involved in teaching and learning about the Internet. The URL is **http://www.internettraining.demon.co.uk.**

Special Offer on Kodak's Digital Camera

Taking photos and transferring them to computer has been made even more fun recently, as Kodak introduces a special offer on their Digital Science DC25 camera.

From now until the end of June, anyone who purchases the model will qualify for a free 2 MB Picture Card Adaptor, which stores up to 56 images on the camera before they're transferred to a PC. This has been seen as a great idea for holiday makers who need to store a large amount of images on at once.

Buy Kodak's digital camera and get goodies for free!

"Kodak is always looking for ways to give their consumers greater value for money" says Pierre Schaeffer, Kodak's general business manager in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. He continued: "By expanding the capacity of the DC25, we are making digital photography more accessible and exciting than ever and I am confident this exceptional offer will tempt many new users to join the digital imaging revolution.

Those who buy the camera simply fill in a form attached to the box and then send it off to Kodak. The 2 MB memory card should reach them within 28 days. More information can either be obtained by phoning Kodak's Digital Imaging Support Line on 0800 281487 or by visiting their home page at **http://www.kodak.com.** The DC25 (with free memory card) is currently priced at £350, including VAT.

Psion Launch Modems for their Portables

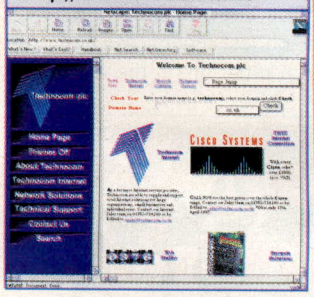
Users of Psion's portable computers (Series 3a and 3c) can now enjoy the experience of email and the Web, thanks to a new range of modems, designed for the machines.

Two solutions are now available — the PC Card Modem Adaptor and the Travel modem (only for Series 3c). Plugging into the Psion's serial port — allowing you to use a range of standard type II PC card modems — the PC Card Modem Adaptor offers 5.5 hours of continuous use, without putting strain on the Psion's battery life. This is due to the modem using its own set of AA batteries.

The Travel model is pocket-sized and can run at up to 14.4 bps, using either a power supply or two AA batteries.

The PC Card Modem Adaptor is available for £99.95 and the Travel Modem for £199.95. Psion's home page can be found at **http://www.psion.com.**

For more information about Technocom, visit their site at **http://www.technocom.co.uk.**



Interactive Web Pages with Microsoft's Active Server

Technocom, the UK's leading business ISP is soon to launch a service allowing Net developers to make interactive, refreshed home pages using Microsoft's *Active Server Page* environment. It's aimed to appeal to those wishing to set up content-rich Web sites which offer more than just read-only facilities.

With *Active Server*, programming language can be embedded into Web pages, allowing dynamic applications to be set up. This then allows the creation of sites which can collect data from databases throughout the enterprise, format it using HTML and transmit it back to the user.

"With more and more company Web sites now competing for attention, it's vital to offer something a bit different which will attract visitors on an ongoing basis" said Peter Hill, managing director of Technocom.

Technocom's Web page can be found at **http://www.technocom.co.uk.**

LIVE EVENT

Not content with simply reporting on Net events, TOTAL INTERNET will be joining forces with Net-artists Resonance to run it's first 'outside broadcast' from the forthcoming 'Question' event at Brighton's Zap Club on the 22nd May 1997.

Question will be a true multimedia event, with live music from T-Power and Macrocosm and live audio-visual mixing of animation, video and film by Protean Vision Quest. DJs will include Mixmaster Morris and Bobby Bird from Higher Intelligence Agency. Lights and sculptures will be provided by She Installations.

TOTAL INTERNET's coverage of the event will include the public unveiling of the new Protean Vision Quest Web site and uploads to the Net of sounds and pictures from the event throughout the evening. There'll also be opportunities to chat online with other Net users and people at the venue.

If you want to participate in the on-line event then point your Web browser at **http://www.headland.co.uk/question/** at any time after 9.00pm on the 22nd of May — visit this site now for details of any extra software you might need to download before the night. If you want to come along in person, you should make your way to Zap Club, 191 Kings Road Arches, Brighton Seafront on May 22nd, between 9pm and 2am.

WIN! Computer art video featuring Orbital!

The organisers of Question have also provided us with five copies of their new computer-generated video "Ancient Alien" to give away to TOTAL INTERNET readers (which features music by leading techno musicians, including Orbital). Simply send an email to **comps@rapide.co.uk** with 'Ancient Alien' in the title and we'll enter you into the draw.

If you want to get in touch with the people behind 'Question', or want to find out more about their Protean Vision Quest video, their music releases and other live events then send an email to Conor Patterson at **conor@visionq.demon.co.uk**, Tel/Fax 01202 475228.

Channelisation

As the Internet grows, more and more companies are creating one-stop Web Channels. Gareth Lancaster analyses the move from surfing to settling...

Both Microsoft and Netscape are rushing to include push-media in their browsers.

No doubt, if you surf the Internet on any regular basis, you'll have realised just how difficult it can be at times to get the information you want without having to skip from site to site and trying out some useless options in between. Because the Internet has grown fast and because most people have the ability (and obviously the inclination as well) to start sites up, we find a myriad of resources, the majority of which are of very little use.

Finding the ones that are useful can sometimes be a lost cause but there are changes that could make all this a lot easier.

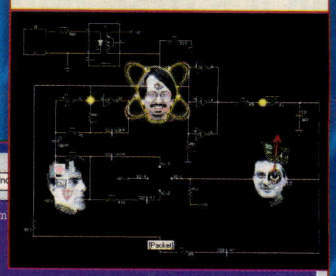
Nobody is denying that the free flow of information that the Internet allows is a very good thing but there comes a time in everybody's surfing, where you require certain information on a regular basis and don't want to have to go through the rigmarole of trying to find it time after time — it would obviously be a great help if it was all in one place or, even better still, if it was just delivered directly to your machine. Well fortunately, these means already exist and if you take advantage of them you'll find the Internet will become a much more useful and controllable resource that it would be otherwise.

In this article I'm going to look at two, although seemingly disparate, methods that you'll soon see are both gunning towards the same aim. The first is a development that's been creeping up on us for a long time without many of us realising it — that of 'network' sites where we can gather our news, get the latest Internet information, talk on forums and also include a whole wealth of other options. Sites such as *HotWired* and *C-NET* fall neatly into this category. The second and probably the most interesting development in the past year, is push technology, which will make surfing the Internet an easier task than we ever thought possible.

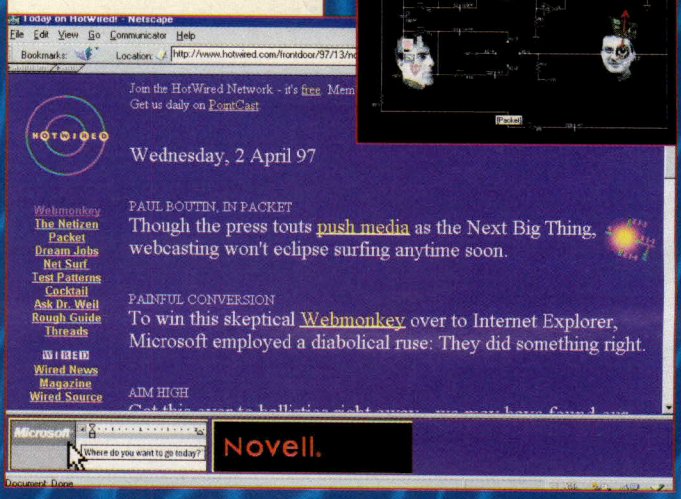
HOTWIRED (http://www.hotwired.com./)

For personalisation, the *HotWired* registration has got to be the best one currently available. If you're not a member, you can visit a large majority of this site and their associated *Hotwired* sites but if you do register you'll get plenty more for your surfing time. For instance, when you register you can check boxes to receive email newsletters etc. These include Hotflash (the weekly newsletter), Audio (details on music and broadcasts), Club Wired (live chat, guests and discussion info), Cocktail (culture and events), Dream Jobs, Netizen (new political ideas), Packetflash (daily analysis and commentary on wired world), Beta Lounge (Beta testing opportunities), Wired News Wire and you can even have the *HotWired* Homepage emailed to you daily.

HotWired — *another site aimed to be an all in one.*



HotWired — *provides plenty of email backup.*



As well as all this, the *HotWired* sites have a great deal of content covering every facet of your everyday life and it's all presented in an attractive — but not over done — fashion meaning that everybody should be able to use this service. I strongly recommend this, as it's got something for everyone and a lot of information can be delivered to your email, rather than you having to go surfing for it. I'm a member and it's one of the most useful networks I've found on the Internet to date.

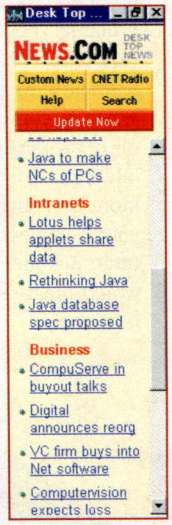
CompuServe (http://www.compuserve.co.uk/)

CompuServe is probably still the largest, off Internet, network providing a wealth of member only services but they do face problems. It still costs to join CompuServe and for your time online, whether that's using them to surf the Internet or to log onto their own services — the second of which I feel is an out-dated and increasingly unfavoured position. They are also going to face problems from the new Internet networks as these are free to join, giving you a lot of the benefits of a service such as CompuServe for the cost of your call to your ISP. There's no doubting the fact that CompuServe was — and still is — a great service but it's difficult to see just where it will fit into a future dominated by personal preferences, when the Internet is already starting to offer personalised, information based services for your everyday needs. It'll be interesting to see how the company reacts to the growing band of followers these networks are gathering and what they'll do to counteract this threat.

It pays to know about these methods, as the benefits for people from every walk of life are great. The Internet faces many problems in terms of speed and infrastructure and these methods could help to relieve some of the pressure from your surfing, leaving you with more time to explore.

BBS Heaven

If you owned a modem before the Internet arrived, then you'll have no doubt been into using Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs). These were inherently localised systems that you dialled up through something such as Telnet, leaving messages, downloading software and reading forums. Of course there were some BBS systems that were not just local, such as CompuServe and CiX, which had a large number of users and offered travel booking, entertainment information and other services. With the advent of the Internet however, these systems were largely forgotten about (although CompuServe and CiX are still very much up and running) as for the price of a local phone call you could gain access to a much wider spread of information than they could ever provide. But now we seem to be going through a time where parts of the Internet are, if you like, de-evolving towards the BBS's of old, providing us with splinter sites that revolve around their own being, encouraging you to register and stay and offering you tailored information to match your needs and preferences. It's an interesting development and these sites seem to be finding favour with the general surfer, seeing them as an all in one information backbone.



Customise your news through **C-NET** *and get the latest stories — updated every thirty minutes.*

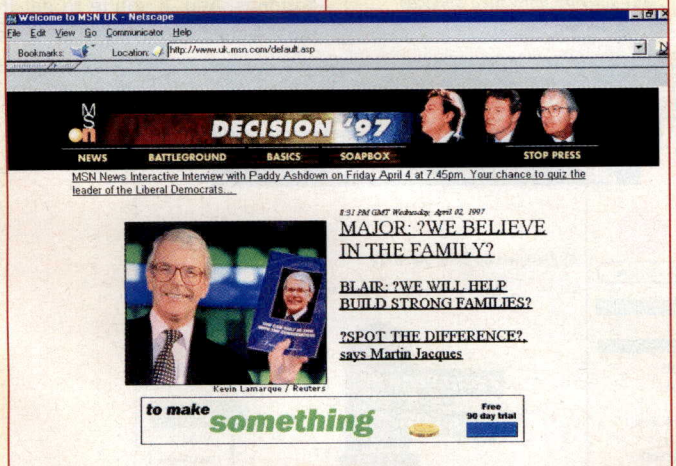
The Microsoft Network

(http://www.uk.msn.com/)

It's probably best to start with the network run by the largest company, as presumably it should be the best one around. Well, you'd think that wouldn't you but I'm not so sure. To start with you'll need the *FutureSplash* plug-in (*Netscape Communicator 4* users will find the plug-in down loads automatically) which gives the site a more multi-media feel, with changing buttons and animations a plenty. This also makes it a little unwieldy for those with lower spec machines.

My general feeling from this site is that it's aimed more at the business man, rather than at the general public, with a large news and business section. It also doesn't seem to have a great deal to offer in terms of personalisation, not when it's compared to the other options.

MSN *has a much more flashy, corporate feel.*



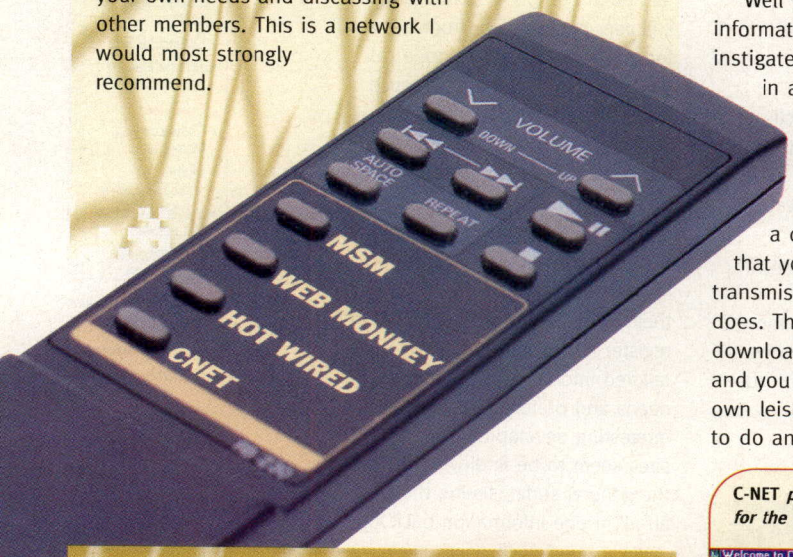
But What's The Point?

Some of you will probably already be asking yourselves a question - 'Why are these sites being invested in so heavily by companies?' Well the obvious answer to this is revenue through advertising. I mean, look at the C-NET site which has over 1,100,000 members who they can e-mail and who look at their site so will see banners on it. It's big business in some respects. Also you should bear in mind that the Internet is a fierce market place to operate in and any customer loyalty, namely through the use of registration, gives sites an edge over others in terms of the revenue they can attract through it. Don't think for a minute that these sites are being run in a non-profit capacity but the remarkable thing about the Internet is that other's bear the cost for our enjoyment.

The C-NET Empire

(http://www.c-net.com/)

C-NET sites have been around for a long time and they've developed many different sites catering for different needs and again, if you register, you can personalise most of these to fit in with what you're interested in. Membership gives you complete access to all parts of the service, a bulletin board discussion system (memories of CompuServe abound here) the *C-NET* Digital Dispatch and the opportunity to participate in polls. The main *C-NET* site contains many features and tips on getting the most out of a wired world but probably their best service is on their news site (**www.news.com**) where you can click on a link to get a small browser window, with the top 20 hottest stories which is automatically updated every thirty minutes. All in all *C-NET* provide an unparalleled service on the Internet, with less emphasis on email deliveries and more on active participation in moulding the sites to your own needs and discussing with other members. This is a network I would most strongly recommend.



Other C-NET Run Sites

C-NET run many content specific sites where your membership will help tailor what you see and how you use them. Check out the following.

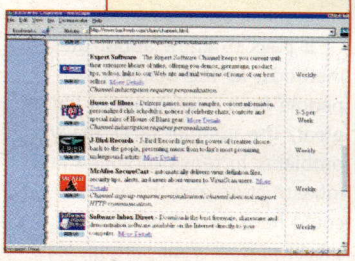
News	**http://www.news.com/**
Gamecenter	**http://www.gamecenter.com/**
Search Engine	**http://www.search.com/**
Software downloads	**http://www.shareware.com/**
	http://www.download.com/
ActiveX	**http://www.activex.com/**
Mediadome	**http://www.mediadome.com/**
BuyDirect	**http://www.buydirect.com/**

Push Technology Contenders

If you want to get a piece of the push-media action then you'll first need some software. There are currently a number of different options around — none of which are compatible with each other unfortunately — but all of which already have a great number of channels to join in on. Three of the main options are:

***Pointcast* — http://www.pointcast.com/**
***Marimba* — http://www.marimba.com/**
***Backweb* — http://www.backweb.com/**

Many channels already exist using the new push technology.



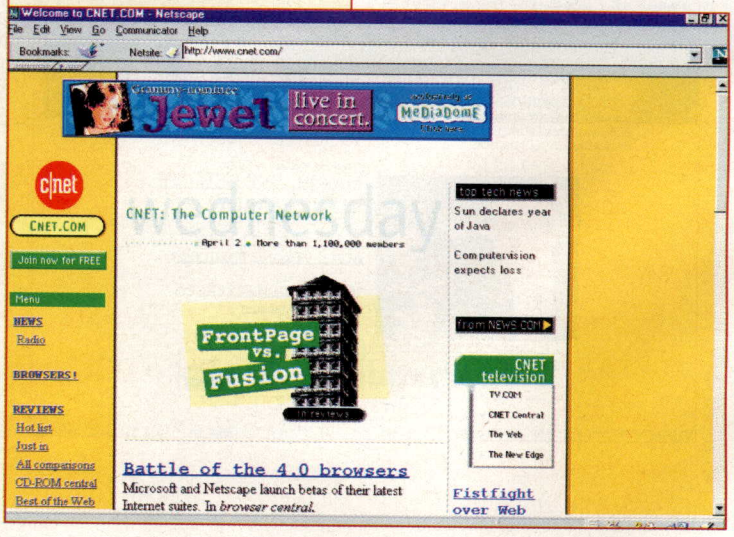
Push Technology

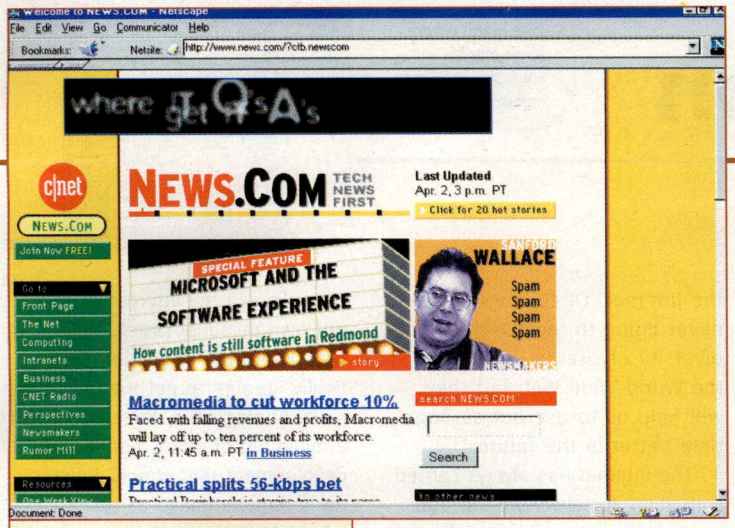
Last month in his column, Sean Clark touched on the prospects offered by push technology and no doubt wet a few appetites with his descriptions. But why is it so special?

Well with normal surfing, all information downloading is instigated by you when you type in a URL or click on a link etc. but with push technology you run a piece of software that receives information from a channel server, meaning that you don't instigate the transmission, a remote server does. The information is then downloaded to your hard disk and you can look at it at your own leisure. Without you having to do anything the latest broadcast is already waiting for you, be it news, weather or something more obscure. By taking advantage of bandwidth gaps you don't have to worry about a thing — once you're registered on a channel, you'll automatically receive the information it sends out — without having to do anything else. Sounds like a god send doesn't it? Well it is and it isn't.

First of all the content on the channels is more often than not likely to be very multi-media intensive, hence requiring a lot of band width, so on some connections it could take a while to download each broadcast as it happens. And, if you're to get the most benefit from these systems

C-NET provide unrivalled services for the surfer.





C-NET *carry a wealth of content specific sites such as news and shareware.*

you'll need something like a permanent connection, otherwise every time you log onto the net you'll be inundated with new channel broadcasts (depending on how many you're registered to, however). But don't let that instantly put you off because there are some applications for this that will make your life so much easier.

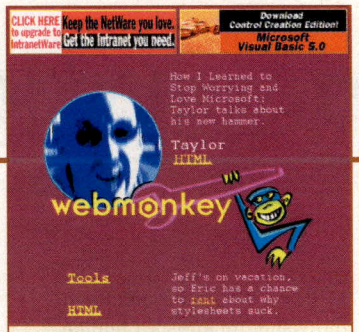
For instance there are software channels that will automatically download the latest releases of software you use when they are available. No searching or finding an FTP site that doesn't take four hours to give 60k. There's also the obvious news, weather and sports services or how about financial markets or games... in fact, the possibilities for the use of push technology are amazing. Remember also that this is cutting edge Internet technology, so you'd expect to need a fairly beefy machine and a fast connection to get any real benefits from it — it's the way of the world!

Times They Are A Changin'

I think it's fairly obvious that push technology will be a big Internet buzz word over the coming year in much the same way as audio/video streaming was last year. The advent of this type of delivery system has substantial benefits for the end user, as we'll be able to get hold of the latest information in an easy to use format without needing to surf a site or indeed stay online, the content having been downloaded to our hard disks ready for us to browse at our leisure. But it's worth bearing in mind that this technology is still in its infancy and as yet there is no standard — channels run by one push technology cannot be read by another push technology and here we find ourselves in the same situation as we are with audio streaming for instance. But there is an extra difference here. With audio streaming we had one very dominant format, *Real Audio* by Progressive Networks, and at the moment, with push technology, we do not have any clear market leader unfortunately.

Microsoft and Netscape are unlikely to come to an agreement over which formats to support as is already evident, both see that there is too much to lose in an arena that is already tough on competition. It is more than likely that some formats will have direct support in *Netscape's Communicator*, some in *Microsoft's Explorer* — and if we want the others we'll have to download plug-ins.

Unfortunately that's the way of computers and we'll just have to take advantage of what's on offer and we'll probably find ourselves using a couple of different formats in order to get the information we're after. But on the plus side, it does indicate a change in surfing habits with more information — that we actually want — being brought to our front door without the need to go out and surf for it — something that I find very exciting and something that will reduce my wasted searching no end. You see you have to bear in mind that the Internet is becoming bogged ▶



Webmonkey, *by* **HotWired,** *should help you to keep your browser completely up to date.*

Webmonkey
(http://www.webmonkey.com/)

Also run by *HotWired* is *Webmonkey*, a site dedicated to browsers where you can find out the latest technology and get plenty of tricks and tips. Again there are extra benefits for those that are registered with *Hotwired* and if you are, you'll end up finding this the only resource you'll ever need to keep your browser and browsing fresh and up to date.

Marimba *has already been adopted by Netscape.*

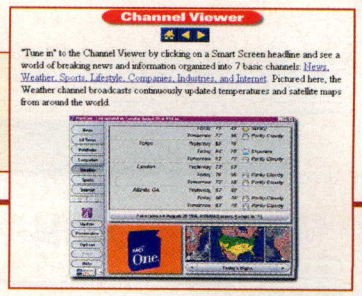
Push Technology Problems

As with any development that is as yet in its infancy, push-media has some problems. The first is that different company's systems aren't compliant with one another, so depending on what channels you want to view, you may need more than one piece of software. Also these packages aren't small (around 4 mb each) and they'll need to be running a great deal of the time you're online, so unless you've got a lot of memory in your computer, even running one could be a problem at present. And finally, only the *Windows 95* players are currently at any real state of development — and even those are by no means perfect.

Free For All!

Although anybody can log onto the networks I'm discussing in this article, you'll need to register with them for the added benefits of extra services and personalised information. But don't worry as with all the sites it's completely free. All you have to do is supply a few personal details, a username and password and you'll be able to log on straight away.

Channelisation



Like many other push-media, Pointcast *requires registration.*

down with thousands and thousands of sites so finding what you're after can be a nigh on impossible task - having it delivered directly is nothing short of a blessing in my book.

So push technology is going to be with us for a long time and no doubt the content will improve as the technology is adopted by more and more people although, having said that, Pointcast is already being used by over a million people, a figure that surprises me saying we are so early on in the development of these systems. People can obviously already see the benefits.

It's not just push technology that's changing the way we surf either. As I've shown in this article more and more people and sticking to just a few sites that carry a whole wealth of content - such as MSN, C-NET and Hotwired. We have unrivaled services with these sites giving us the news we want, forums to discuss and options covering our home and work lifestyles. We can tailor what we see to our own preferences and use these sites to keep ourselves up to date on what's happening with the Internet. Of course they're never going to replace the diversity of sites available on the World Wide Web but they will help us to use our surfing time better in the future.

The Internet has always carried something for everyone but now we're finding that we can tailor what we see the Internet as for our own personal tastes. In the wide world of information we are finally starting to get the means of really finding what we're after, with a minimum of effort, and it's a development that should bolster the Internet's image as an information source for everyone.

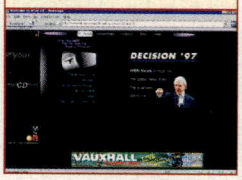
Hotwired Cookies

Some people might see having to type in a user name and password every time you want to surf one of these networks as an unnecessary addition to your surfing time but *HotWired* have come up with a clever little solution. Using browser Cookies (little pieces of information that your browser carries around with it) the site lets you store your user name and password in one, so when you log onto the site you are automatically logged on as a registered user. This means you don't have to remember a thing!

Browser Showdown

Netscape and Microsoft are currently rushing to include push-media support in their next generation of browsers but at the moment it doesn't seem like they'll be automatically supporting the same ones. Netscape's preferred choice at the moment is *Marimba*, with Microsoft due to support both *Pointcast* and *Backweb*.

MSN *— just one of a number of online channels.*

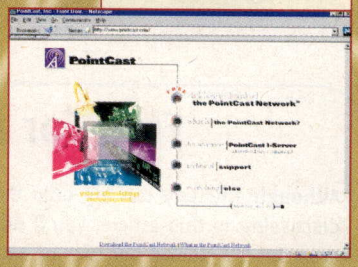


Over 1 million people already use Pointcast *service.*

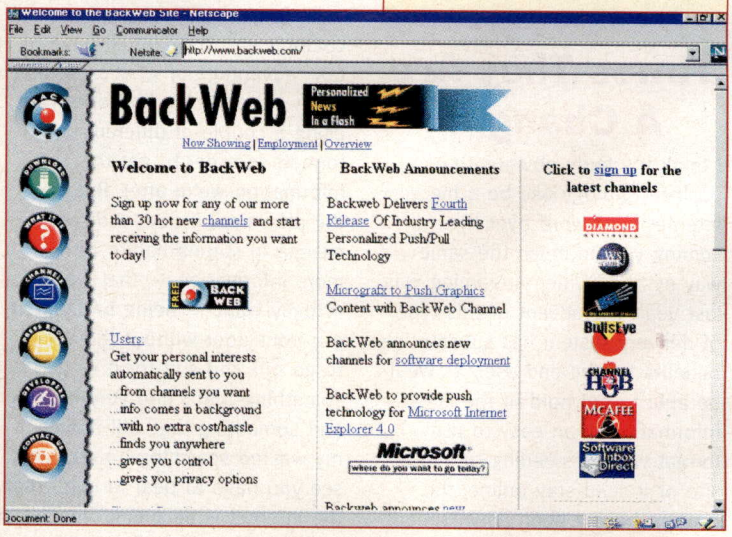
Finding Channels

Push technology manufacturers, such as *Pointcast*, all have sections on their sites giving details of channels you can currently register to receive. These lists are growing daily and cover a wide variety of different applications. The channels are easy to register with and as soon as that's complete your push-media player should start receiving new broadcasts as they happen (broadcasts vary from weekly to daily, depending on the type of service you're registered with).

Pointcast *provide push technology products.*



Backweb *is one push technology favoured by Microsoft.*



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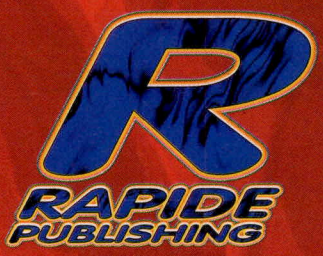

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THE DAY THE WEB STOOD STILL

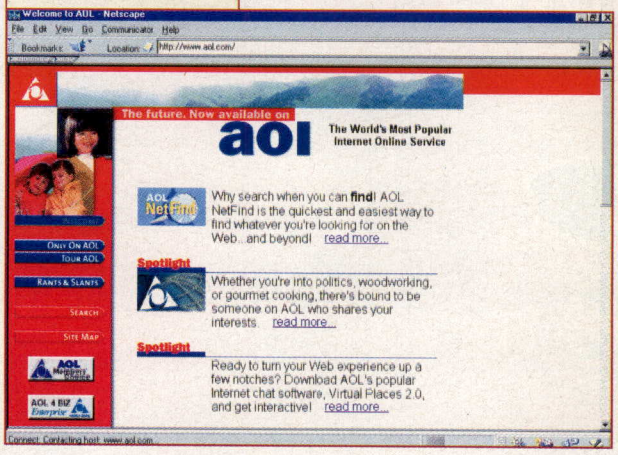
Virus infestation? User overload? Millenium melt-down? We investigate worst-case scenarios on the Web...

Featuring **GARETH LANCASTER** *from the realms of* **CYBERSPACE**

It sounds like a spoof B-movie from the sixties but — in reality — could the Internet really come to a grinding halt one day? Well, not wishing to give any of you the fear (I rely upon it for my livelihood, so it'd be a worrying time for me if it did) it is possible that situations could conspire to make the system unusable for a certain amount of time. Now that's probably got your attention fired up and raring to go, you'll probably want to know what you can do about it and to worry you even more the answer seems to be — on the surface at least — that there's not a lot you can do. This entity called the Internet that a lot of us have all absorbed into our daily lives, is something that's way beyond our control. It is a situation born from the fact that the Internet was never meant to be and only through being hijacked for the global populous' use has it ever arisen at all — it was never meant to be what it is today and that's a fact. So we've created this monster, or rather it's been created from isolated developments the world over, come to rely upon it and now it's reaching its critical mass, we're facing the problem of who's going to sort it out.

But it's not just the amount of use that the Internet's getting that could bring up the big red light for its traffic. It's also possible that forces we might try to protect ourselves against can infiltrate the Internet and bring it down from the inside — namely by the use of viruses. OK, so it's not exactly X-Files material but viruses are a major part of every computer users' life. We'll start with this and as you'll see this isn't just my

AOL have had many infrastructure problems in the past.



Internet Statistics and Topology

If you don't believe me (or if you crave statistics) then check out some independent research results that can be found on the Internet. These cover everything from the number of Internet connections in countries, to the number of dogs owning leased lines (OK, I made that one up but there are some very obscure ones out there).

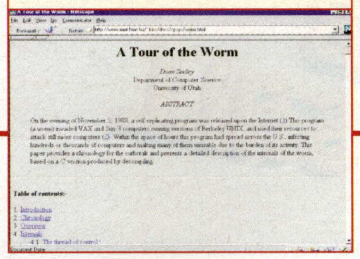
Measuring The Growth of The Web — **http://www.mit.edu/people/mkgray/growth/**

Internet Stats — **http://www.internetstats.com/**

The Geography of Cyberspace — **http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/casa/martin/geography_of_cyberspace.html**

Hyperspace Project (mapping WWW connections) — **http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~anuu/hyperspace/**

The Internet Worm — could it happen again?



FIRST — fighting online security threats.

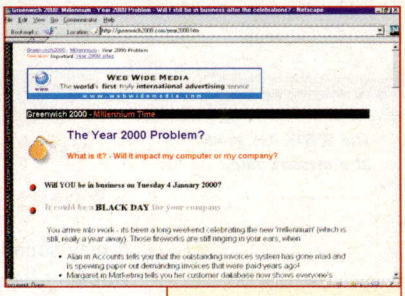
Hoaxes and Scares

What's often more annoying than news of another virus being spread on the Internet is that of hoax viruses. A couple of years ago there were rumours about a virus named 'Good Times' which supposedly was spread via email and could erase your hard disk. It was also said that this virus originated on the AOL commercial service but in the end the scares didn't come to fruition — mainly because a virus being spread through email is a pretty impossible thing to achieve anyway. But it does illustrate that the issue of viruses being spread through the Internet is real and where some are hoaxes, others are unfortunately true. To read more about the Good Times virus scare check out **http://www.nwnet.net/netcetera/dec94/netc-1.44.html**

BBN Timeline

(http://www.bbn.com/customer_connection/timeline.htm)

It's interesting to see just how quickly the Internet has developed over the past thirty years (increasingly more so in recent years) and this site goes right from the Net's inception up to modern day times. It's scary, but looking at this site you definitely get a feel that the Internet is developing at a faster pace than us, or indeed 'it', can keep up with.



The year 2000 could cause Internet users a big problem.

imagination working overtime, it's something that's already happened and might, given the opportunity, happen again.

As The Worm Turns

Many of you will probably have heard tales of the Internet Worm before but it's an example of how either intentionally (or unwittingly as this one was, supposedly) software can be unleashed onto the Internet causing dramatic loss of information and time. I'll start with the brief history. On November 2nd 1988 Robert Morris Jr., a graduate student studying Computer Science at Cornell University in America, released onto the Internet a self-replicating experimental Worm (called a worm because of the way it burrows its way through the Internet and self replicating because it leaves copies of itself everywhere it goes). The original aim was to see just how quickly the worm would spread and not to do any damage. But because of a bug in the program, that's exactly what it did and everywhere it went (the worm also replicated faster than expected) it left behind... well, nothing. And by the time anybody realised what was happening, the worm had already spread over a large portion of the Net and caused horrific amounts of damage. When the creator realised what was happening, an anonymous email was sent to sites telling them how to clean up the worm wherever they found it but by that time it was too late — the harm was already evident. For his troubles Robert Morris got three years probation, 400 hours of community service (he had to pay for the supervision costs also) and a fine of $10,050.

In today's world it wouldn't be so easy to wind up a worm and let it roam free on the Internet, as everybody is much more security conscious but it is possible it could happen again, as no security measure is ever one hundred per cent successful. You only have to look at the number of computer viruses around to realise that as soon as somebody has released a virus checker to eliminate the latest ones, new variations start appearing. Unfortunately, this is a sad fact of computing that we all have to live with. Of course with firewalls (web server protection mechanisms) now common-place — although by no means standard — it's getting more and more difficult all the time. ▶

Resources on the Worm

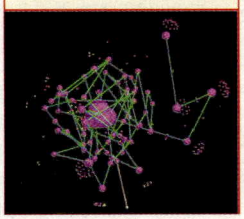
If you want to find out more about the Internet Worm then check out the following sites.

The Internet Worm — **http://www.ely.anglican.org/coin/roadshow/presentation/worm.html**

Links To Incident — **http://nano.xerox.com/nanotech/worm.html**

Tour of the Worm — **http://www.mmt.bme.hu/~kiss/docs/opsys/worm.html**

The Internet is a complex beast (from Hyperspace study).

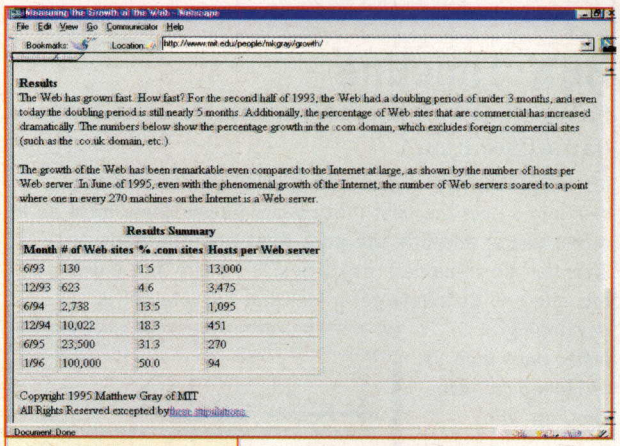


Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams

(http://www.first.com/)

Rather than being some secret, underground wing of the American government, *FIRST* is actually a coalition to exchange information and coordinate responses to security threats, mainly on the Internet. The site contains information on recent scares, tips about what you can do to help protect yourself and what others are doing to protect you also.

THE DAY THE WEB STOOD STILL



Results

The Web has grown fast. How fast? For the second half of 1993, the Web had a doubling period of under 3 months, and even today the doubling period is still nearly 5 months. Additionally, the percentage of Web sites that are commercial has increased dramatically. The numbers below show the percentage growth in the .com domain, which excludes foreign commercial sites (such as the .co.uk domain, etc.).

The growth of the Web has been remarkable even compared to the Internet at large, as shown by the number of hosts per Web server. In June of 1995, even with the phenomenal growth of the Internet, the number of Web servers soared to a point where one in every 270 machines on the Internet is a Web server.

Results Summary

Month	# of Web sites	% .com sites	Hosts per Web server
6/93	130	1.5	13,000
12/93	623	4.6	3,475
6/94	2,738	13.5	1,095
12/94	10,022	18.3	451
6/95	23,500	31.3	270
1/96	100,000	50.0	94

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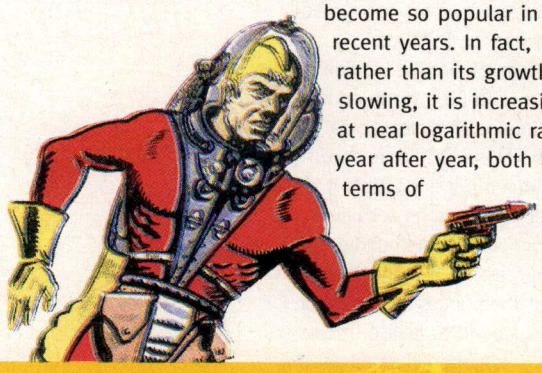
The WWW has grown at a massive rate.

Victim of Its Own Success

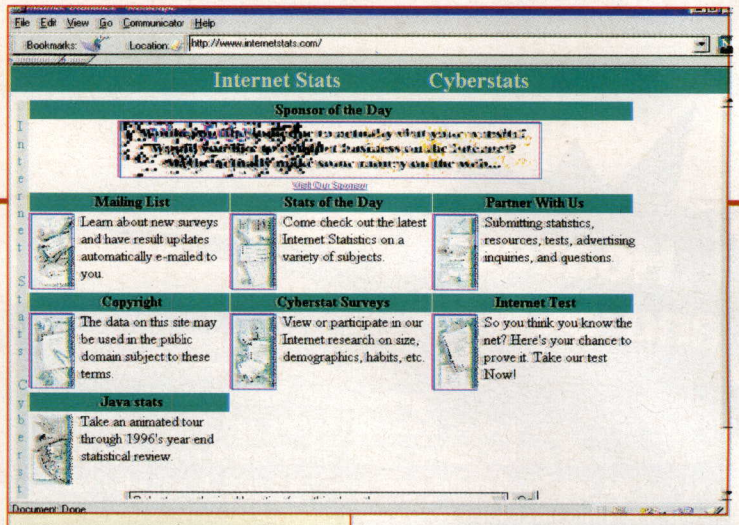
It may sound a bit harsh but I wouldn't be sitting here discussing the infrastructure problems the Internet faces, if it wasn't for the fact that it's become so popular in recent years. In fact, rather than its growth slowing, it is increasing at near logarithmic rates year after year, both in terms of the number of users surfing and in the number of places to visit. But let's look at the reasons for this.



Firstly the Internet has undergone a shift in perception with the general public. What was first seen as a geek filled environment for computer nerds to communicate with one another, is now a resource useful for eveybody's work, rest and play. I've seen this change first hand. Two years ago, I dreaded telling people that I wrote about the Internet because there first response was that I must be one of the thick rimmed glasses and sandals brigade. Now however, if it comes up in conversation, I find that people can't ask me enough questions about it. The mainstream now seems more used to the fact that there are real life applications for it and has started to explore it on mass.

Then there's the way the content of the Internet has changed. When it first arrived on our shores we could send and receive email, use FTP, browse Usenet feeds and use Gopher to access libraries of information. But one development changed all that — the World Wide Web. Now everything is much more intensive on the bandwidth you have available and it's going to get increasingly more so. With full on multi-media sites springing up left right and centre and with the advent of live audio and video, demands are at an all time high, so it's obvious that something has to change to accommodate all this.

So as the Internet continues to evolve, so its uses continue to evolve too and with computers being the way they are, everything continues to push forward at an ever more frantic rate. Because people have started to tap into the power already available, they've realised that there's much more out there to take advantage of in the future and for a large percentage of the time haven't stopped to think if it can actually handle it yet. Just because it's possible in theory, it doesn't mean in the clogged up world of cyber space that it's actually going to work well.



Internet Stats Cyberstats

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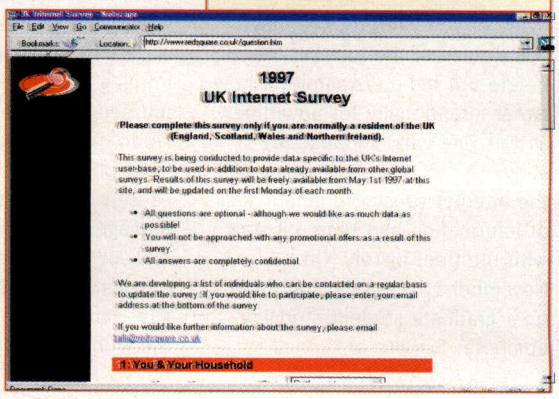
Internet Test — So you think you know the net? Here's your chance to prove it. Take our test Now!

Java stats — Take an animated tour through 1996's year end statistical review.

Stats about the Internet make interesting reading.

Watch this space for details of UK Internet useage.



1997 UK Internet Survey

Please complete this survey only if you are normally a resident of the UK (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

This survey is being conducted to provide data specific to the UK's Internet user base, to be used in addition to data already available from other global surveys. Results of this survey will be freely available from May 1st 1997 at this site, and will be updated on the first Monday of each month.

- All questions are optional - although we would like as much data as possible!
- You will not be approached with any promotional offers as a result of this survey.
- All answers are completely confidential.

We are developing a list of individuals who can be contacted on a regular basis to update the survey. If you would like to participate, please enter your email address at the bottom of the survey.

If you would like further information about the survey, please email

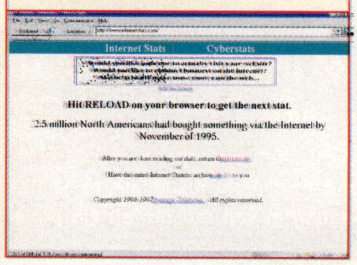
1. You & Your Household

Free Telephone Calls

In America many people have access to free local telephone calls and as many people's Internet Service Providers are just a local call away, this means that for all intents and purposes, the Internet is pretty much free. Now there are a number of problems with this — as have been highlighted in some areas — and indeed in this country, where cable customers were able to get free local calls at certain times of the day (this has recently changed in most areas to lower cost calls, rather than being completely free).

The main problem arises because, at peak times, everybody is scrabbling to connect to their ISP — thus clogging the system — and because they will invariably stay on for longer, it results in poor service and slow surfing speeds. The simple fact of the matter seems to be that ISP's cannot presently handle the prospect of free local calls nationwide (not that it seems very likely in the short term anyway) because their infrastructures aren't sufficient to be able to cope with it.

Figures concerning the Internet are sometimes startling.



Internet Stats Cyberstats

Hit RELOAD on your browser to get the next stat.

2.5 million North Americans had bought something via the Internet by November of 1995.

YEAR 2000 RESOURCES

For more information on what you'll need to do or be aware of for the year 2000 then check out *Yahoo*'s section on it which can be found at URL **http://www.yahoo.co.uk/Computers_and_Internet/Year_2000_Problem/**. There's also a very good resource called *Greenwich 2000* which can be found at **http://greenwich2000.com/year2000.htm**

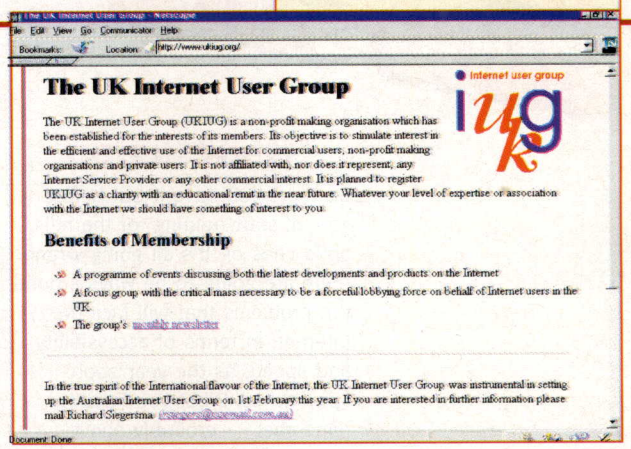
Would free local calls really be a god send?

Millenium Fever

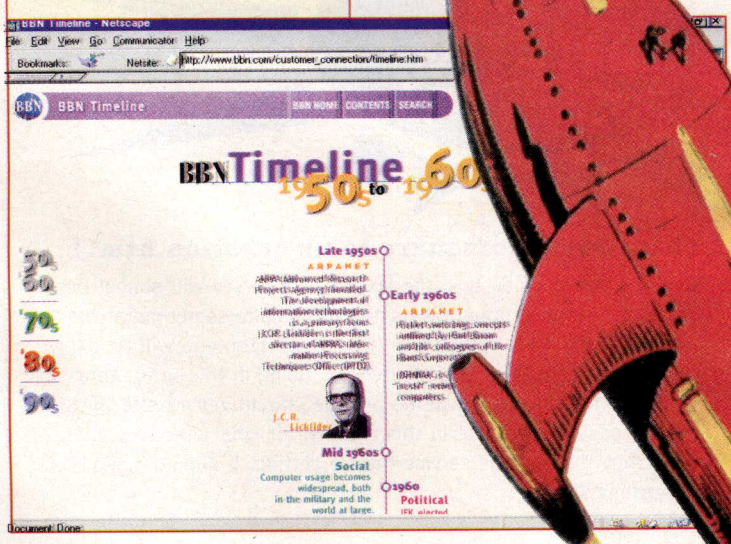
Finally, to give you a few more nightmares, something else could — theoretically — cause the Net to halt for a few days at least and it's nothing more menacing than the year 2000. You've no doubt all heard that most computer programs were written by programmers who obviously thought that the world ends in that year, because when this happens most computer systems the world over will probably either sit down and have a break or churn out useless information until they just become unusable. The problem arises because most computer dates only carry two spaces for the date, so after 1999 the year becomes 'oo' creating the illusion that we've gone back in time.

Luckily people are already starting to address this problem and are creating solutions and work arounds so that come Tuesday 4th January 2000 (when we all go back to work) everything is still working correctly. It'll be interesting to see the effect this problem has upon the Internet as many services — such as Usenet news for instance — work off dates intensively. It's worth bearing in mind and finding out if there's anything you'll need to do — or you could find yourselves lost in the early nineteen hundreds for a while.

UK Internet Users Group — actively lobby for better service.



Internet growth is faster than the technology can handle.



HOME TO I.S.P. TO INTERNET

You'd be forgiven for thinking that if you buy a faster modem, then you're going to see faster access to the Internet but it's not always the case. Modem technologies have come on a long way since just a year ago, with speeds above 28.8k — such as 33 and now 56k (with x2 technology) — becoming more and more popular. But at the same time as modem speeds having risen, more people have started to surf the Internet and ISP infrastructures have been slower to respond, so although in theory you should get a faster connection, in practice you might not see that much more difference.

Because Internet technology is advancing at a much faster rate than anybody can predict, even if they try, ISP's face the same problem as home users but on a much larger scale, mainly because they have to boost their infrastructure not just for one person but for everybody who connects through them. This obviously proves costly and it may be that the ISP pricing war, where companies try to undercut more and more, will have to be reversed if those of us who want to continue using the Internet wish to do so at a reasonable speed. Already ISP's have problems, as is highlighted by the inadequate infrastructure offered by some large American companies such as AOL and if the predicament is to be eased at all, it will have to be in the form of increased investment to keep up with modem demands on their networks.

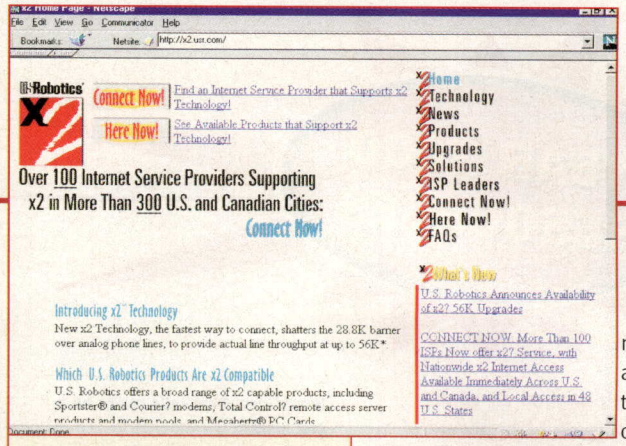
I think it is very likely that in the next year or so we will see some Internet Service Providers shut up shop, simply not having the capabilities to provide what the customer requires in what has to be seen as a marketplace driven by outsiders, namely those providing the end services on servers. People will expect to be able to obtain faster access speeds to the Internet and to utilise the latest, more bandwidth intensive applications it can offer and for a few ISP's this is simply going to be out of their reach, again victims of their own, and the Internet's success.

THE DAY THE WEB STOOD STILL

Conclusion

So there you have it but before you all start running for the hills amid cries of 'It's all going wrong' there are going to be ways around the problems that will face the Internet, in terms of accessibility and speed, as the year 2000 approaches. What you have to remember — probably above everything that I've discussed here — is that the Internet is already big business, with companies realising just what it can do for them in terms of sales and advertising revenue. If you think for a minute that they're going to let this wonderful marketing machine wither and fade into obscurity, then think again. In fact the private sector is probably where most of the funding will come from and gradually the speed and efficiency of the Internet will rise. But the big dilemma is, will it happen in time?

Well, because the Internet is basically a free for all, with nobody owning a certain part of it and therefore nobody really being responsible for its up keep on any national or even local scale, there is no automatic allocation of who should buy what to connect to where. But in the true spirit of the Internet, it always seems to happen. Companies wanting to host sites will invariably go for those providers that can offer fast links out to the rest of the Net — if anything it's a real Internet status symbol to have a fast server. And all the time prices are coming down. For example, just compare web server prices a year ago to now and you'll see that they've fallen a long way and the functionality and service they provide way out-strips what was on offer then.



Modem speeds are getting faster and faster.

So where does that leave us end users then? Well it leaves us somewhere between the devil and the deep blue sea. On the one hand we won't be asked to foot the bill for changes (on any major scale at least — OK, ISP prices might rise a little in the future) but on the other we'll have a better infrastructure to utilise but only if we ourselves upgrade our connectivity package, costing us money. Already more and more demands are being placed on our trusty little modems and these demands will increase — it's obvious that the Internet is going more towards multi-media, meaning more towards band width intensive applications, as the months go by and this is only set to increase ad infinitum. In six months to a year's time, most of us will probably be starting to think of throwing our modem in the bin and going for something a little more advanced such as a cable modem or a leased line. You may laugh at this but if America is anything to go by (and it usually is) there's a connection revolution on its way to us from across the waves, where we'll find it's cheaper (even for light users) and easier to surf through a permanent connection than it ever was with a 28.8k modem.

For the time being however, we have to trudge on through the quagmire of the Internet, waiting for Netscape to connect and thinking that maybe this time the Netscape comets are going to fly for ever, because somebody just caused a major pile up on the information super highway. But seriously, it's not all going to come to a halt (although it seems more than possible at times) but it might get slower before it gets faster. And the Net's probably always going to be one of those enigmas that expands quickly to fill any gaps, perpetually leaving us in the same situation, struggling to squeeze more out of it than it's ready to handle.

UK Internet Users Group

(http://www.ukiug.org/)

In order to get ISP's etc to invest more in their infrastructures and to build a better Internet for the end users — ie. you and me — the best way is to make your voice heard through a large group of people. The UK Internet Users Group is one such organisation and once you've joined, your opinions will be heard and you can be part of an actively lobbying group for better Internet service in the UK.

UK INTERNET SURVEY

(http://www.redsquare.co.uk/question.html)

By the time you read this, the UK Internet Survey will almost be complete (results should be posted to this site sometime at the start of May). If it's still early in the month then you will probably be able to participate in the survey by filling in the on-ine form. If not, then the results will be up and we should get a better picture of who uses the Internet in this country, for what purposes and what they think of the service they're getting. It should make interesting reading.

The PC Mag for the REAL gamer!

Only £4.99 including explosive CD!

ON-SALE NOW!

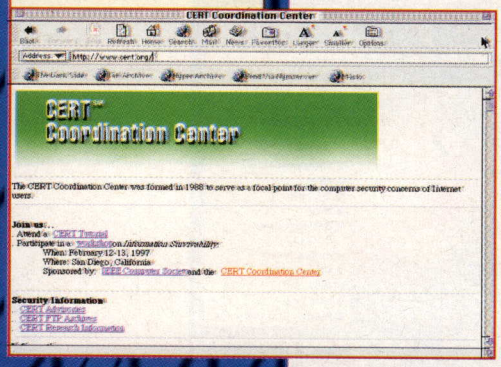
Online Anonymity

THE SECURITY RISKS

Privacy on the Internet doesn't go well with security. Sure, if there were no security holes in the software, IP addresses wouldn't need to be logged — but sadly, there are. Plus, the Government would hate to have everyone with 100% anonymity.

There are other, more annoying reasons why you might not want everyone to know your name and ISP. For example, some companies or Government institutions will report you if they think you're doing something wrong. This means that a lot of the privacy and anonymity resources out there are underground sites, run by hackers or crackers. One server, *all.net*, has a zero tolerance policy. This means that if you telnet to their site, they will automatically send out an email to **root@yoursite** and say that you were trying to make an unauthorised entry into their site. If they fear that this could be a security risk, they email *CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team)*. This can cause quite serious trouble and — if your sysadmin is the paranoid type — get your account removed. So let us say someone told you there was a MUD running on *all.net*. So you telnet in. You could lose your Internet access. I emailed the system administrator, Fred Cohen, who now works at *Sandia.gov* (Sandia National Laboratories, a US Government Department of Energy run system). He explained the need for such a system. "The bad guys don't like the zero-tolerance approach because it succeeds in catching them where other approaches fail. True hackers are only mildly bothered by a little piece of email to their systems administrator". This seems more than fair enough, especially when one considers that *all.net* has previously been the victim of a number of pretty serious attacks. Many people fear that systems such as this are simply paranoid and dangerous, and that the Zero Tolerance system is very unfair. However, I would have to conclude that most of the people who put up Web pages in protest of this are largely without a case — the risk of an innocent person logging onto *all.net* are quite remote. All the same, we would advise that you are careful where you telnet to. If you are worried that somebody has given you a dodgy address, either don't try it, or ask somebody else.

CERT are there to help with hacker attacks.



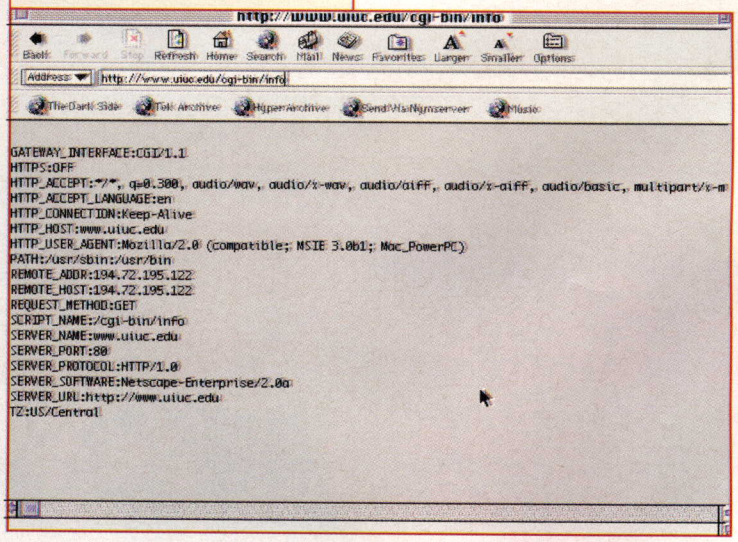
Is Big Brother watching you? You may be surprised to know that the answer is 'yes'. We sent our undercover-agent Paul Bartlett out to find the truth about anonymity.

You cannot help but have noticed that Internet users are obsessed with privacy. This is not without due cause. The American government have made moves that some have interpreted as attempts to remove privacy from American Net users. But surely, this doesn't make any difference to the rest of the world, right? Think again. It does make all the difference. The Internet is largely American and when the US Government set precedents, then other countries may feel obliged to follow suit. The UK government aren't exactly ecstatic about the current state of the Internet.

Security Risks

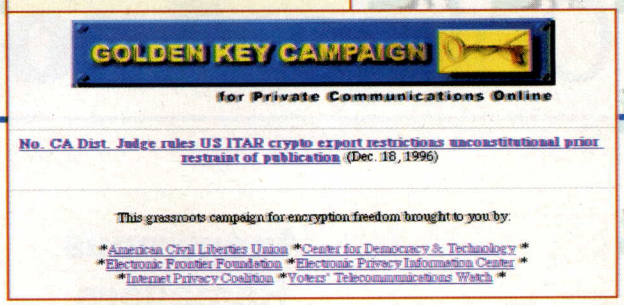
But what can we do? For all we know, they could be reading our emails, watching where we surf. Big brother could be watching you. Okay, so he may not be. Call it paranoia, but the Internet is a big security risk — and a lot of emails DO get monitored — and it's a little hard to believe that the only ones they read are those posted by known terrorists. And the Government isn't all you have to worry about. Nosey, smug little geek sysadmins may be sitting at their terminals, reading every email that passes through their machine. Emails are transmitted as plain text, they aren't encoded. In theory, thousands of people could read an email that you send to America. Just how many

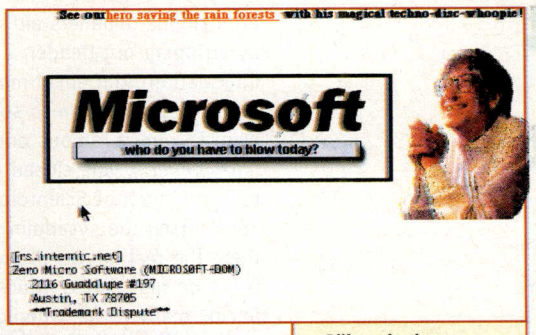
This is just some of the information that can be found out about me.



Semi-anonymous email from http://www.usa.net.

Many anonymity and free-speech campaigns exist on the Net. The Golden Key *is pressing for privacy.*





Bill made them remove www.microsoft.com

5 Steps to Securing your Privacy

1) Get a free shell account. This isn't too hard. Ask around, find somewhere where you can get one. Try *nether.net* (http://www.nether.net) for starters — this is a very good, free service. But please, if somebody is kind enough to give you a shell account, don't abuse it. A shell account means that you can surf, but it won't look as though you are connecting from your ISP. The downside is that this system is text only.

2) Sign up with *Mailmasher* (http://www.mailmasher.com), for a free anonymous Web-only email account.

3) Use the *Anonymizer* (http://www.anonymizer.com) when surfing WWW or FTP sites of a sensitive nature.

4) Use PGP for sending really sensitive emails. Where you're going to get it is another matter, because of cryptography exportation laws in the US, although apparently it can be obtained at ftp.hacktic.nl/pub/crypto.

5) Keep a nice hard-drive eraser program handy. I don't mean a Format program either — I mean a 'Burn' program. Formats can be undone,but when you burn the data from a Hard Drive, they aren't going to get it back. If it doesn't warrant nuking your hard drive, then there are file burners too.

do, we have no idea. Certainly, the chances of some git reading your private emails are small, but if you're posting sensitive information, then there's only one way to go — encryption. Programs such as *PGP* (*Pretty Good Privacy*) encrypt emails very, very securely. However, law states that it cannot be exported out of the US, simply because it is — or at least was — more powerful encryption than the US government had themselves. There are other such programs but sometimes you can find copies of *PGP* that have been smuggled out of the US and stored on machines in the EU...

Of course, FTP and WWW downloads are all monitored with the strictest security. This is mainly due to hackers. If somebody hacks a system, it would help to know who they are and where they came from. The same is true of Telnet.

Why Privacy?

Let's say your company is involved in some sort of scandal, or minor conspiracy. Let us imagine you have solid proof of this and want the world to know. If you send out an unencrypted email and if your company is careful, then your email may never reach its destination — and you could get the sack. Or perhaps you are the victim of some form of abuse, and don't want the world to know who you are? Perhaps you fear further abuse should somebody find out your identity. What can you do? Well, there are plenty of options, including anonymous remailers (see boxout) and encryption.

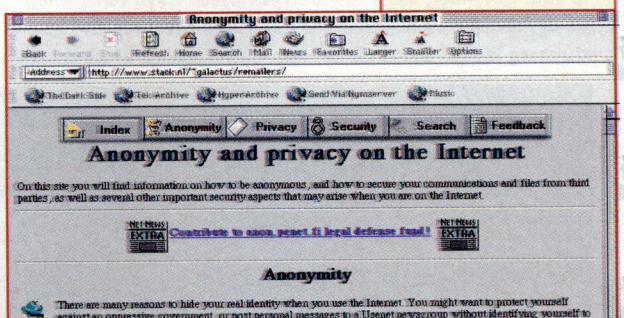
One of the most popular encryption resources on the Internet is created by someone known as Galactus, at **http://www.stack.nl/~galactus/remailers/.** Galactus stressed to us the importance of privacy on the Net: "The large number of computers that keep track of what people do (even if it's as little as just logging that someone downloaded an image from a Web site) creates some very scary possibilities. It is already becoming popular on the discussion groups (Usenet) to "Dejanews" someone. That is, you look up this person's name and see where and what he has posted before. If it was something personal, then this can then be used against him in the course of the current discussion."

"It is also interesting for online marketing. It is equally easy to find all people who like to debate about fishing, or programming in C, or about a particular fetish. You can then send them targeted mail with a higher chance of success than with 'bulk' direct mail.

"For these reasons, I think it is very important that users are given the means to protect themselves. They should not be giving out more information than they choose to — and software should have the means to configure this."

Of course, he does have a very good point. ▶

Galactus runs a good anonymity page.



Online **Anonymity**

Anonymous Remailers

Anonymous remailers aid privacy by stripping out header information from email messages and forwarding it on to someone else. The most famous one, *anon.penet.fi*, was closed thanks to The Church of Scientology. They forced the sysadmin to give them the real names of some users on his service, which was felt by many to be a deplorable act. The Scientologists, described by many Net users as a religious cult, have sued many, many Netizens and ISPs, over what they claim to be 'copyright' violations. They have also been accused of spamming newsgroups in an attempt to 'paint over' the criticism of them that can be found in *alt.religion.scientology*. Few people wish to criticise the Church of Scientology, for fear of having their homes raided. Many net/remailer users have indeed suffered this fate. The Scientologists are 'waging war' on the Net Remailers but for the moment at least, they still exist.

Remailers come with varying degrees of security, the lowest being a pseudo anonymous remailer. This means that you can sign up for a free email forwarding account without giving your name. Well, there's actually a little more to it than that. You can also use it to totally disguise your identity. Usually, unless you're a hacker that enjoys using fakemail or mailbombing software such as *Up Yours* (see boxout), any email you send will include extra information hidden in the header of the message. Sure, you can change the return address in *Netscape* but your ISP will include extra header information in your message so that you can be identified as the sender. Nothing you can do about that, unless you use a remailer. When you send an email to somebody via a Nymserver, you do it like this (after having obtained a free account, of course): Send it to an address on your chosen remailer (ie, **anon@remailer.**

MailMasher is Really Almost back

It's been quite a bit more than the 48 hours that I had previously claimed, and I'm sorry for the delay. The truth is that I found an interesting bug shortly before turning on MailMasher 2.0, and then found myself way to busy to fix it. I think I've got it fixed, and MailMasher should be up and running in some sort of beta-test state sometime really soon now (hopefully on Tuesday night or Wednesday of this week).

I'm also going to release the MailMasher code under some sort of free licensing scheme in July 1997. It will take that long for me to shake the rest of the bugs out, and to get all the legalese written (I'm not GPL-ing it). So, if you want to run your own MailMasher, it will be possible. It will require a dedicated unix machine, perl 5.003 and expect.

I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and words of encouragement during this downtime. It's almost over.

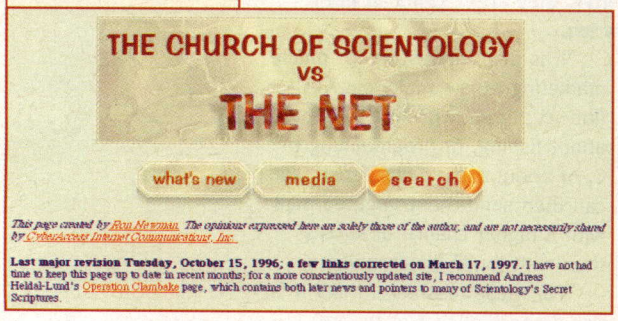
-Tox

Need Web-Based email? Try RocketMail, HotMail or NetAddress

Need an anonymous mail address? Try a nymserver.

Great Web-Based email. better than http://www.HotMail.com *anyway.*

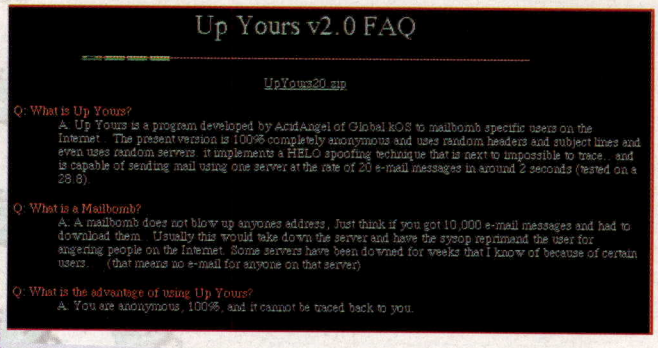
John Travolta and Co attack the Net.

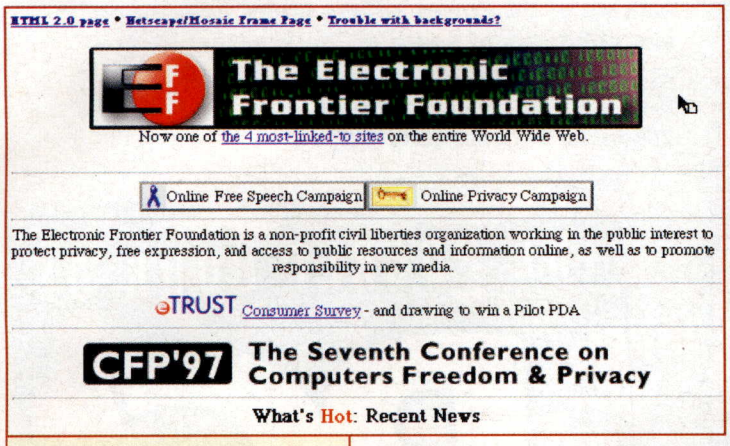


FAKEMAILING

Fakemailing is the practice of logging onto a mailserver (usually manually) by telnetting to port 25 of the server and manipulating bugs and shortcomings in the software in order to send anonymous email. It's very easy and there are now programs which will do it for you. However, there are two problems. Firstly, it's illegal. You could get into big trouble for it. And secondly, most mailservers these days have been designed with fakemailers in mind and preclude the use of them as illegal fakemail servers by recording IP addresses. So, for example, if you try to send fakemail using a modern server, then the chances are that the person receiving the 'anonymous' email will actually see your IP address somewhere in the header — a message like <User from 194.xx.xxx.xxx didn't use Helo protocol>. You're nailed buster, if the recipient has half a brain, then you can kiss the Net goodbye. Basically, you can be traced. It's not clever. Programs such as *Up Yours!* take advantage of this security hole and are created with the aim of mailbombing people. That is, sending thousands and thousands of untraceable emails to somebody, messing up their server. Not nice, but it works if you know an anonymous server. Malicious programs such as this are responsible for the attacks carried out by the infamous Internet Unabomber.

The legal problems with Fakemail arise from the fact that it is illegal to use anybody's computer system without their permission. There are one or two servers around which won't log your IP address (usually run by busy or incompetent sysadmins, who haven't updated their software in a few years) but it really is very silly and irresponsible, especially seeing as there are now anonymous remailers to do the job for you. I really wouldn't even consider it. Just say no.



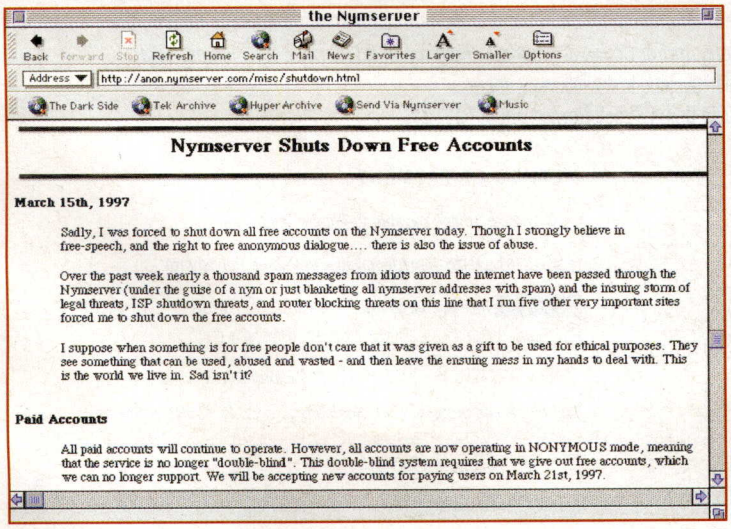


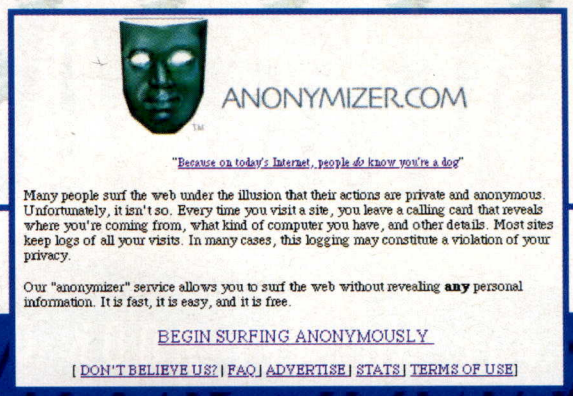
EFF, working for a more private and secure Internet environment.

address.org) with the line "X-Anon-To: **whoever@somewhere.com"** somewhere in the message. The remailer then removes all of the header information from the message, and then **whoever@somewhere.com** receives the message, with no idea as to who it's from. All they will see is the return address (for example): **anXXXX@remailer.address.org.** They can reply and their message will be forwarded to you and again it will be anonymised so you can't see where it was sent from. Thus anonymity is preserved both ways. Pretty clever. Of course, some vary slightly in the ways that they are used, but you get the general idea. And, if you're a bit unsure of using that interface, then sometimes you can send messages via the Web, which is dead easy. A remailer is probably the best (and easiest) remailer of its type that is currently functional. If you need something totally secure (well, nearly), try going to **http://www.mailmasher.com**, where you don't even have to give them your email address. And, used in conjunction with the *Anonymizer*, your security is vastly increased.

STOP PRESS

The well known Nymserver at **http://anon.nymserver.com** has been closed down due to abuse. You can now only get an account there if you're willing to pay. Go to Galactus' homepage to find out where the best remailers are: **http://www.stack.nl/~galactus/remailers/**





THE ANONYMIZER

When you go to a WWW site, the server logs your IP address, the time and every transfer that you make. They can sometimes even find out your login name on the server you are connecting from. There's loads more, of course. They can even get your email address. Some of the snoop-features can be seen in action at **http://www.uiuc.edu/cgi-bin/info**, although this may not be entirely comprehensive. The *Anonymizer* provides a pretty good solution to these privacy problems, either by acting as a proxy (set up in your Web browser) or by accessing the URL like this: **http://www.anonymizer.com:8080/:http://the.now.anonymous.url.com.** The *Anonymizer* downloads the page for you, then sends it straight to you. It's a go between. A virtual pimp, if you like.

So let us suppose that the evil and twisted Mr.Sysadmin finds that some villain has been maintaining his SecretSite on his server — **www.evilsysadmin.com.** After deleting the page he decides to check his logs to see who has been visiting the SecretSite, so he can hopefully frame them for some sort of evil crime. Let's say you've been using the *Anonymizer*. He will see this in his log files:

www.anonymizer.com - - [12/Mar/1997:01:11:26 -0100] "GET /~SecretSite/index.html HTTP/1.0" 200 3584

Now, you don't need to understand much of that. Just that the address you connected from is at the beginning and at the end you can see the Web page that you downloaded.

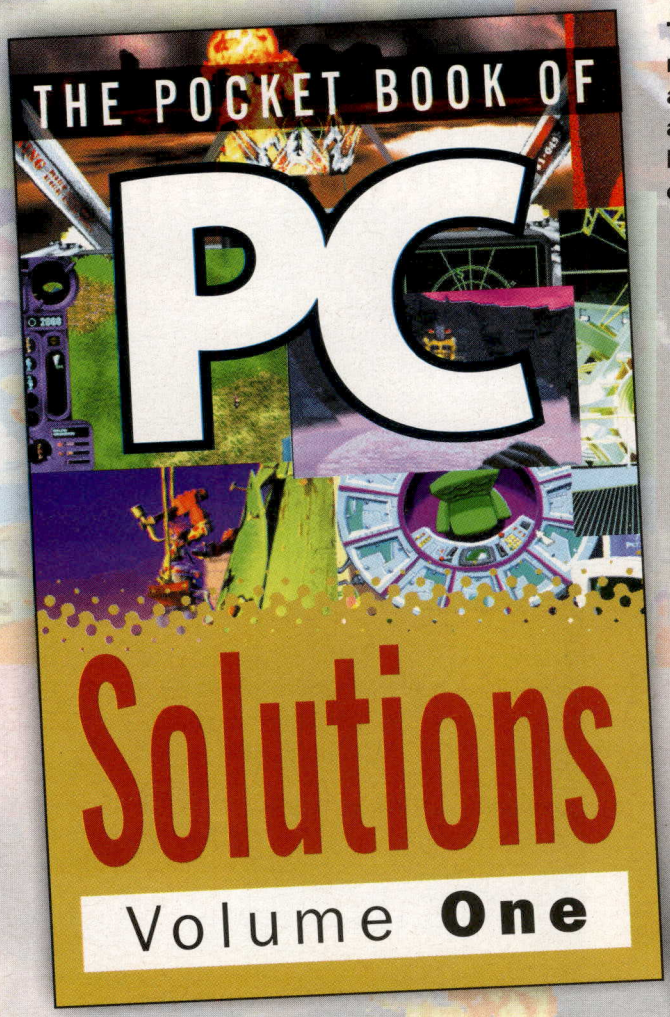
He will be foiled. He will then find the other poor souls who didn't use the *Anonymizer* and victimise them instead. If you were careless and used your own (ISP or Shell) account, he'd see this:

my.address.eeek.com - - [12/Mar/1997:01:11:26 -0100] "GET /~SecretSite/index.html HTTP/1.0" 200 3584

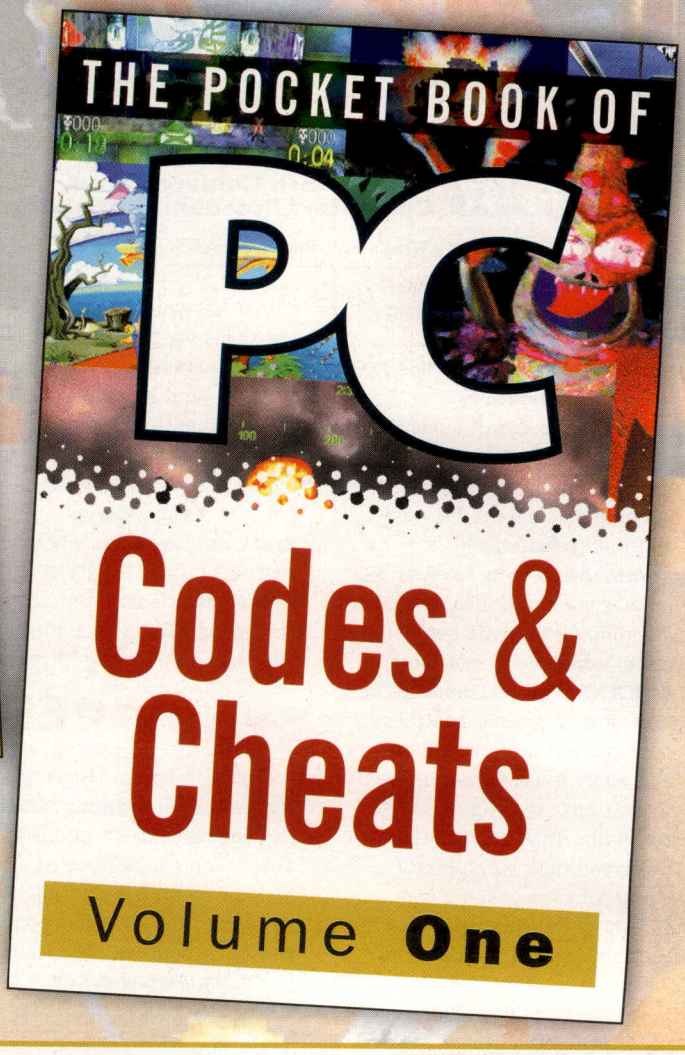
The sysadmin would now email **root@my.address.eeek.com** telling him that you were looking at a SecretSite, possibly getting you into trouble.

There have been one or two accusations that the *Anonymizer* has been secretly grabbing information about users (they claim they keep no logs at all, so nobody can be incriminated in anything should the police turn up on their doorstep) but I have no idea how valid these claims are. So far as I'm concerned, It's good but sadly a little slow. Nice for those secretive little visits to **http://www.whitehouse.gov,** just to spook them out.

Now Available!



The Pocket book of PC Solutions, from the makers of PC Power, offers many walk-throughs and solutions of some of the greatest games available on the PC! Including Fable, Discworld, Dark Forces and a host of others, it's the essential PC solutions guide!



Introducing the Pocketbook of PC Codes & Cheats – featuring dozens of codes, cheats and passwords for you favourite games. Including Quake, Duke Nukem, Doom and many, many more, it's one book that no PC game player should be without!

Yes! Please rush me a copy of The Pocketbook of PC Solutions and/or Codes & Cheats – the price of £8.99 per book includes P&P.
Please return this coupon together with your payment in a sealed envelope to the following address:
PC Solutions/Codes & Cheats Book Offer, Rapide Publishing, 14a Union Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS.
All prices include postage and packing.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Postcode: ..... *Telephone:* .....

Signed: .....

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ *Cheque (made payable to Rapide Publishing)*

☐ *Postal Order (made payable to Rapide Publishing)*

UK ONLY *Please charge my credit card:* ☐ *Visa* ☐ *Access*

Card No: ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ *Expiry Date:*.....

Number of each required: PC Solutions ..... *PC Codes & Cheats* .....

Total amount £ .....

Signature:.....

Date: .....

The Web Guide

The Total Team

Simon Lovell — An experienced Internet journalist, who has work for a string of other Internet titles to his credit. He knows his stuff and understands what makes a good Web Page.

David Ireland — Has worked on a host of leisure titles and now works for SESSIONS, an exciting new music magazine. However, he still finds the time to write the monthly Entertainment section.

Gary Joyce — Has spent his working life surrounded by the latest technology. He's an Internet junkie, with a professional knowledge of, and love for the resource.

Paul Bartlett — Another well known Internet journo, who has a wealth of other titles to his name. Apart from reviewing home pages, he also has a love for talkers. A real cyber-punk if ever there was one!

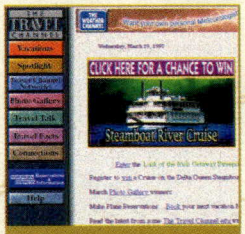
Enjoy looking at pictures of your favourite female film stars, do you? Turn to page 74 to find out where to lay your grubby mitts on some more.

Our excellent listings section is packed with sites, all reviewed and rated by our experts.

Entertainment

Is the Nintendo 64 a flash in the pan? Who are the prizewinning stars at this year's movie awards? Where do you find bootleg music? Start here...

30 Entertainment Today
32 TV and Film
36 Music
40 Nintendo 64



Round, round get around etc. at page 54.

Resources

Gary Joyce goes in search of more resource-based sites, and finds some good ones — and one particularly horrible one...

42 Resources
44 Literature
46 Active HTML
48 Computer Systems
50 Parlez Vous Le Web?

64 what? Nintendo know-how on page 40.

People

Put away the band-aid and use that circular saw the safe way. Those prone to injury can always choose a holiday destination instead.

52 All the People
54 Travel
58 DIY

Sport

From 'hey dude' to 'rather, what?' this month's sport selection has something for all. Read on and widen your horizons.

60 This Sporting Life
62 Baseball
64 Surfing
66 Cricket

Attitude

Drink lots of beer and become attractive to famous women. Of course, you could try getting rid of your flab as an alternative.

68 Wired for Fun
70 Fitness
72 Booze
74 Babes

The Essential Directory

The cream of the Internet crop — covering a host of top sites from many different subjects. If it's in here, it's got to be good.

78 The Directory

Key to Symbols

Our experienced Web reviewers take great care to check every aspect of a site before passing judgment, making TOTAL INTERNET the only Web guide worth reading...

◇◇◇◇◇ Avoid at all costs

◆◇◇◇◇ Poor

◆◆◇◇◇ Needs work

◆◆◆◇◇ Average

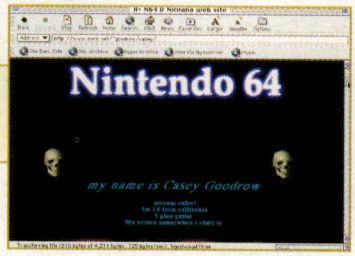
◆◆◆◆◇ Worth a look

◆◆◆◆◆ A 'must visit'

To the best of our knowledge, the Web addresses listed are correct at the time of going to press. However, addresses can change. If you encounter any problems locating a site, try entering the site name in a search engine to check the address.
If you have a site you would like to see included, email Simon Lovell — simon@rapide.co.uk

The (Magical) Mystery here is why anyone would bother going to this site. It makes my modem disconnect.

As always, there has been no shortage whatsoever of great entertainment sites just begging for a mention, including some of the most interesting and technically impressive computer projects ever. Also, there are a small selection of pages that are in fact so bad, that they're worth a mention too!



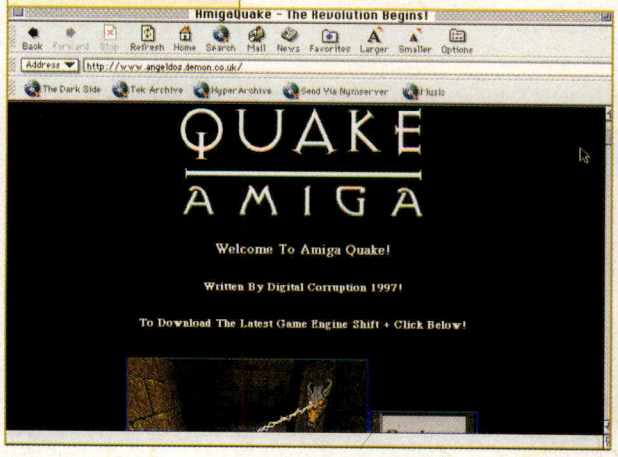
Not very good, but OK if you 'nead' [sic] a selection of Nintendo 64 Cheats.

On the Game

PC gamers will undoubtedly know about *Quake*, the 'sequel' to *Doom* and one of the biggest games ever. Well, they said this game would never make it to the *Amiga* — and they were wrong! OK, so it isn't exactly official — It was taken from some source code which was 'removed' from the *ID* Net server. Possibly when some hackers recently got into the *ID* Website and put the source code available as a download from the main page. Not good for *ID*. But anyway, it has since been ported to the *Amiga* and although it is still in its early botch state, it is one of the most incredible achievements on the *Amiga* in recent years. Of course, it's very (very very) slow at the moment — and at version 0.33 — but it uses all the original graphics and so forth (you must own a copy of *Shareware* or commercial PC *Quake* to get it to run). It's almost certainly going to become much, much faster in the future. Excellent stuff. You can find out where to get the binaries at **http://www.nutts.demon.co.uk/quake.html.**

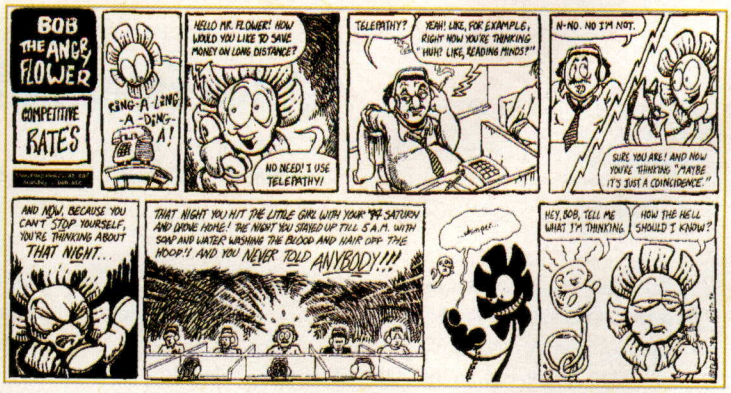
Also on a gaming note, the N64 is now getting a lot of attention, some of it good, and some of it... not so good. For example, this page, which I found on a links site. The blurb next to the link read "Nintendo 64 is the best system, therefore it neads [sic] the best Web site. And this is it." Maybe it does 'nead' the best Web site but this certainly is not it. It contains some *N64* info but the rest of his page appears to be what one might describe as drivel. The guy is only 14 but I think claiming that his site is 'the best' when it's quite clearly... well... very poor, is pushing his luck a bit. Decide for yourself at **http://www.sonic.net/~goodrow/casey/.**

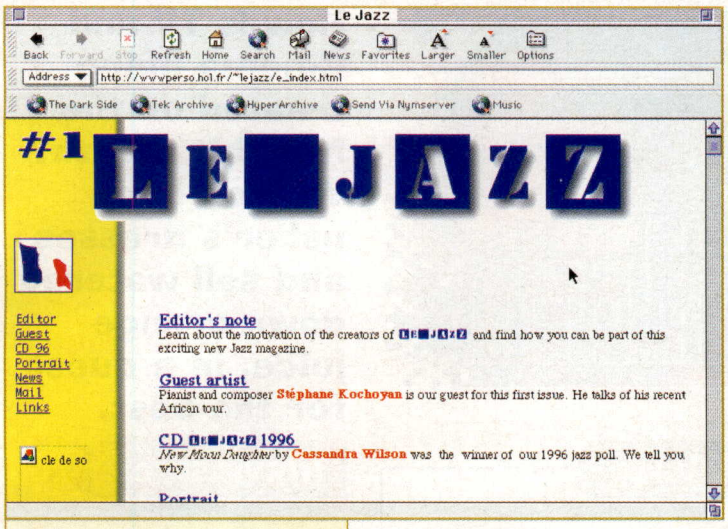
And they said it would never happen... lamers!



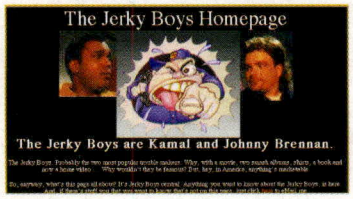
Don't hang up, tough guy!

A tape that's been getting quite a bit of play-time in the SESSIONS/TOTAL INTERNET office is the fantastic Jerky Boys album — a selection of hilarious prank calls, perpetrated by two American guys. Quite popular in the US, the Jerky *Boys* have abandoned their underground roots and you can now buy three CDs and even watch the movie. They have a number of different homepages, one of the best being **http://www.scruz.net/~knielsen/prankcall/jerkyboys/jerkyboys.html.**





Le Jazz. It's smart and... well... jazzy! It's a shame that I hate jazz.



It has a few short Wav. sound files for the downloading but they are only really funny if you've already heard the full sketches and, of course, the full versions are also available on the Net. If you have an *Mpeg3* player, then you can download a few of their calls from **http://brk116a.dorm.clarkson.edu/mp3/Humor/Jerky%20boys/.** See ya there, jackass!

Fans of more 'traditional' audio material will know all about The Beatles — and of course, there are a slew of sites out there dedicated to the Fab Four. One of the newest is the one at **http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Towers/2712/**. It offers album covers and a picture archive but sadly it has a long way to go. The graphics are OK, mostly, but there are far too many huge images, mostly in colour. All on the main page too.

If you're a student on the *Janet* network (or you just have a slow ISP) then be prepared to wait a few years for the page to download. Not bad but not 'the most anticipated *Beatles* site of the year', as the author claims. If it is, then it must have been a terrible anticlimax when he/she finally unveiled it, I would imagine. People need to put more thought into the design, and try not to put in too many massive pictures all on one page. This is a common fault and it does nothing to make the page look any smarter, by having random images shoved all over the place. Not highly recommended, unless you're looking for a particular picture.

If Jazz is more your style (sadly, it is anything but my own), then maybe *Le Jazz* will make your eyes light up. It's available in English or French, and offers a selection of articles, links, and news. It's very smart, and offers many different distractions for the Jazz fan. Point your browser towards **http://wwwperso.hol.fr/~lejazz/e_index.html.**

SITE OF THE MONTH

Bob The Angry Flower

http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/snotley/

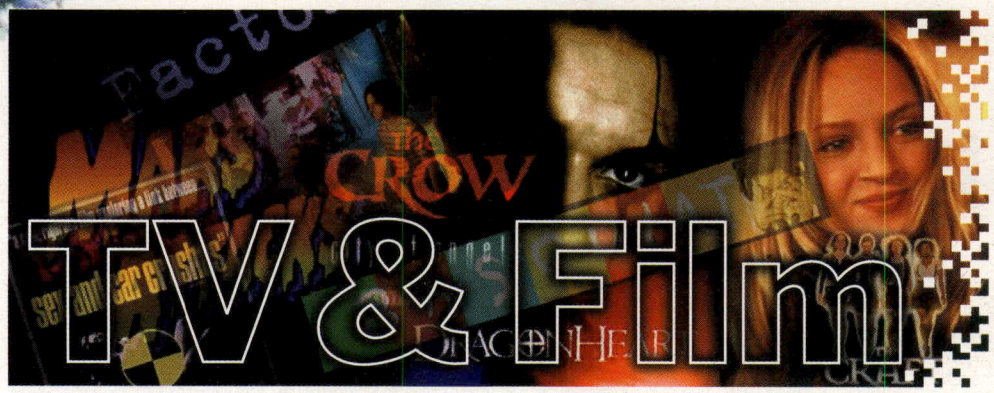
There are quite a few comic strips on the Internet that are not distributed by any other means. Either that, or they only have a very limited distribution in small magazines or newspapers. *Bob the Angry Flower* is one of the latter — there are many such sites listed under *Yahoo*.

I was so impressed with Bob, I reckon I'll buy myself one of those T-shirts!

However, it's also probably the best one out there. It's excellently drawn, and the strips are often very amusing. Strictly speaking, it's not exactly new — but a batch of new cartoons were recently added, which makes it the next best thing.

Bob, as the title suggests, is a flower. Maybe a sunflower. He walks, he talks, and he is very... irritable. His strange friends include a bizarre floating foetus and a tree stump, both of which can talk. He tackles various subjects, including aliens, wheelchair basketball (now that really is hilarious) and Santa.

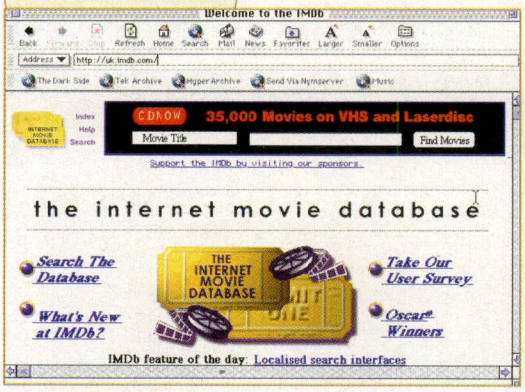
The strips are often surreal and sometimes hard to understand but they always raise a grin. Bob's angry tantrums are always hilarious and the quality of the artwork is second to none. This is the sort of stuff that looks like it was taken from an underground comic and it could probably fill a book or two. It certainly deserves cult status, and it more than deserves the Site of the Month. Be warned though, it isn't for everyone. The language is sometimes a little (not much, just a little) bit strong and the nature of the strips could sometimes be considered a little tasteless (especially where Bob makes fun of the Wheelchair-Basketball players). Still, *Bob the Angry Flower* is a hilarious, modern character that deserves to go to the top. Move over Charlie Brown — Bob is here.

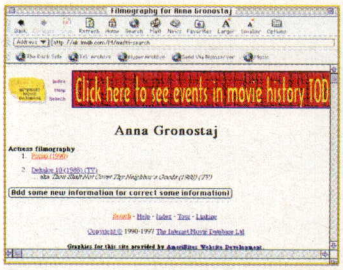


How is TV and Cinema being treated on the Net this month? We don our usher's dresses and sell watered down orange juice, in a quest for the best.

Internet Movie Database

Commercial yes, but good all the same.





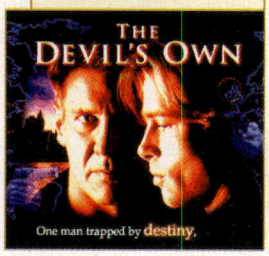
A film fan's paradise, the *IMDB* provides information on just about every film ever made. The search engine is absolutely beyond comparison — you can search for a film, an actor, a member of the crew, music, anything. Let's say we did a search for Tom Cruise, then it would give you every single little snippet of information about him imaginable. From there you can also view all of the information about his films and so forth. Film information often has loads of stuff — a list of errors in the film, (continuity and so forth) some pictures, links, location info, plot summary, ratings (which you can vote on) — everything. It's gotta be the most comprehensive and interactive guide to films in the Universe — You'd never fit this into a book! It recently (well... some time last year I think) became commercial and it now sells a lot of the films on the database. It's easily the best way to find out about a particular film or film-related person. It even covers TV too. Whoopee.

Address: http://uk.imdb.com

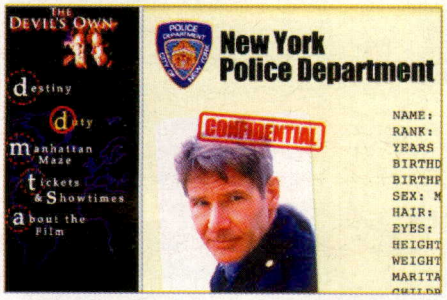
Rating:

The Devil's Own

Brad Pitt, he's more than just a pretty face.



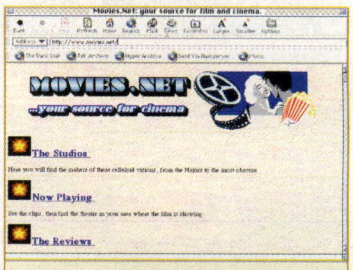
This is a film about the troubles in Northern Ireland, which stars Brad Pitt and Harrisson Ford (the famous non-Irish actors). It's really well presented and offers a lot of information about the film. It could do without some of the know-all comments from Brad Pitt, such as "The people caught up in this struggle are decent, good people who believe very strongly in what they're doing". I'm sure Brad, as an American teen idol, must be a real expert when it comes to the affairs of the Irish. Still, the film also contains a series of stills, some trailers (which take an age to download — as slow as 500 bytes a second sometimes) and some sound files, both of dialogue and music. If the film sounds like your cup of tea, then the site is a pretty good waste of time.



Address: http://www.spe.sony.com/movies/features/devilsown.html

Rating:

Movies.net



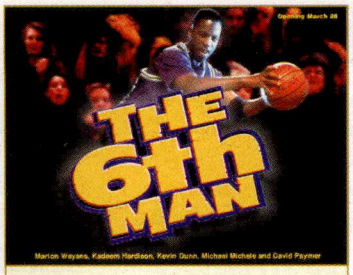
Looks like they got out the good 'ol Corel clip-art CD for this one!

Movies.net (not to be confused with *Movies.com*) is a rather good site, which has a number of in depth articles about the current movie industry. There are reviews, previews, links and all the other sort of stuff you'd expect. Unfortunately, the graphics aren't quite top notch. They appear pretty tacky really and bring the site down quite a bit. Another problem, is that most of it is just links. The amount of content is dwarfed incredibly by the amount of information on the *Internet Movie Database* (then again, so are most sites). It's got some cinema listings for various cinemas throughout the various US states, and Canada too. Sadly, nothing International. I suppose that would take a lot of time to update though. The reviews are okay though, so that adds something worthwhile to the site at least. Probably not worth bookmarking, but still worth a visit once a month. They get all this stuff a long time ahead of us poor UK movie-freaks, you know.

Address: http://www.movies.net/

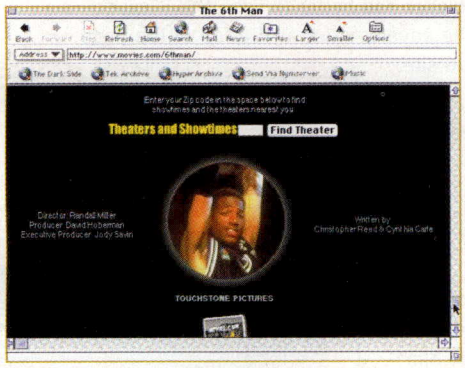
Rating:

The 6th Man



Strange title, even stranger film. Expect sentimental silliness.

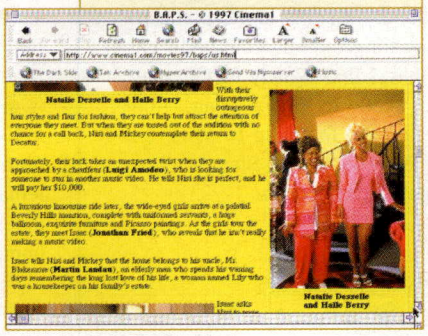
College basketball expert Antoine Tyler, played by actor Dakeem Hardison, dies just before he is about to make it onto the NCAA Basketball championships, which was always his dream. His brother Kenny (played by Marlon Wayans) then has to take control of his team and leave them victorious. Then (as so often happens) his ghost pops up and decides that his team is still going to win. Unfortunately, Kenny has simply lost the will to win. The title comes from the fact that he has to ask one of his team members to leave, so that he can play fairly. Expect lots of sentimental type hokum and 'humor' as Kenny and his mates fight all the way to the top. It's a shame the Web site is such rubbish. There's just nothing there. It's a plot summary and one or two pictures — not really anything worth reading, either. *Movies.com* is actually the site of Buena Vista, so I would have expected something a little better than this lacklustre effort.



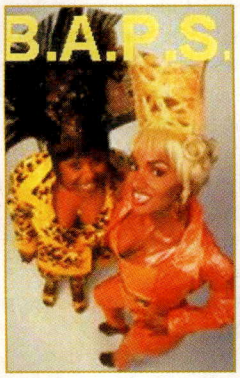
Address: http://www.movies.com/6thman/
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Baps

BAPS. Interesting title, but an ultimately disappointing idea.



The unfortunately named 'Baps' (I bet they change the name of that one before a UK release) is the story of two (very odd looking) female dancers who are offered $10 000 to pretend to be a housemaid's granddaughter (and her friend). They have to tell an elderly millionaire, who is withdrawn as a result of losing an old love — his housemaid — about how his housemaid loved and missed him while she was alive. At first, they get on well with this, until they uncover a scam to con the old fool out of all of his money and estate. Lots of ridiculous antics on the part of the two girls ensue, as the film portrays a "hilarious turn of events". Yes, well. This page has a long plot summary, a few pictures, and a 10 meg (!) trailer which you can download, should you have a few weeks spare. It isn't official, but the official page exists at http://www.newline.com/nlc_releases/name_baps.html. Baps indeed.



Address: http://www.cinema1.com/movies97/baps/us.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Awards

Australian Film Awards

Using Java and plenty of decent graphics, the official Australian film awards is a good read but not hugely relevant to those overseas.
Address: http://207.68.142.51/afiawards/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Razzies

If you don't want to know about the good films of the year, then the worst of the year might be a good substitute. Quite funny and you can even vote on which films were worst. Check it out.
Address: http://www.razzies.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Rosebud

Nothing to do with classic movie Citizen Kane (or his sledge for that matter) just some other award thing. You know the score by now. Pass the envelope and all that stuff. Yawnworthy .
Address: http://members.aol.com/rosebudwdc/index.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

The Oscars

The official Oscars site. All the excitement is over, but the site remains. Okay if you couldn't be bothered to stay up until 1am to watch the TV broadcast.
Address: http://www.oscar.com/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Indie-Pendance day

An article about how the independent films are beginning to win Oscars and films such as Independence Day are being pushed from the limelight. Even though we know different, right? Still, it's Interesting... sort of.
Address: http://www.indiepict.com/html/oscar1.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Beat Gene Siskel

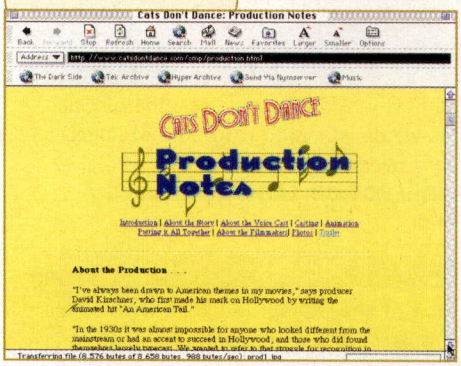
A game where you have to try and get more correct guesses, about nominations and so forth, than famous American critic Gene Siskel. Not very interesting at all.
Address: http://www.chicago.tribune.com/fun/flicks/oscar/siskel.htm
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

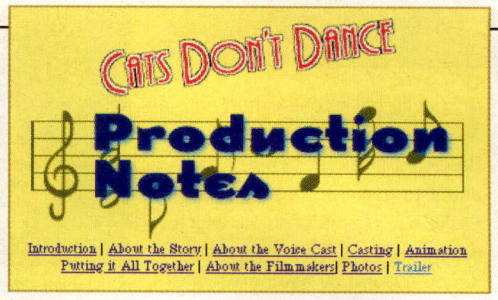
Film Advisory Board

An organisation dedicated to rating films that are suitable for families and children. It's also for books, CD-ROMs and so forth. Boring and not exactly thrilling for UK audiences.
Address: http://206.17.44.2/fab/
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Scott was also in a flop remake of The Invaders.

Cats Don't Dance





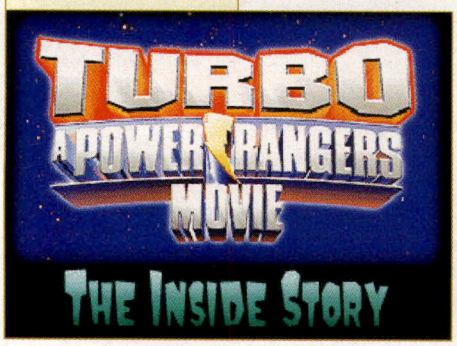
Kids always love films with cute kitties in them and this is one of them. It's a cartoon tale in the style of Don Bleuth, which is being released by the Warner Brothers. The film is set in the 1930s, where a cat called Danny —played by Scott 'oh boy' Bakula of Quantum Leap fame — wants to become a dancer. He finds it hard to get a job because he is an animal. Animals just make noises, they don't dance. Thus, his career is cut short before it can begin — or is it? In what appears to be a thinly veiled attack on Racism/sexism, Danny leaps from life to life, striving to put right what once went wrong. No, he doesn't really. He manages to break the species barrier and goes on to bigger and better things. Well, I expect he does. Nice site, nice graphics, nice content. Could do without the adverts stuck at the top of the page — which are totally unrelated — but it's still a very impressive little site.

Address: **http://www.catsdontdance.com/**

Rating:

Power Rangers : Turbo

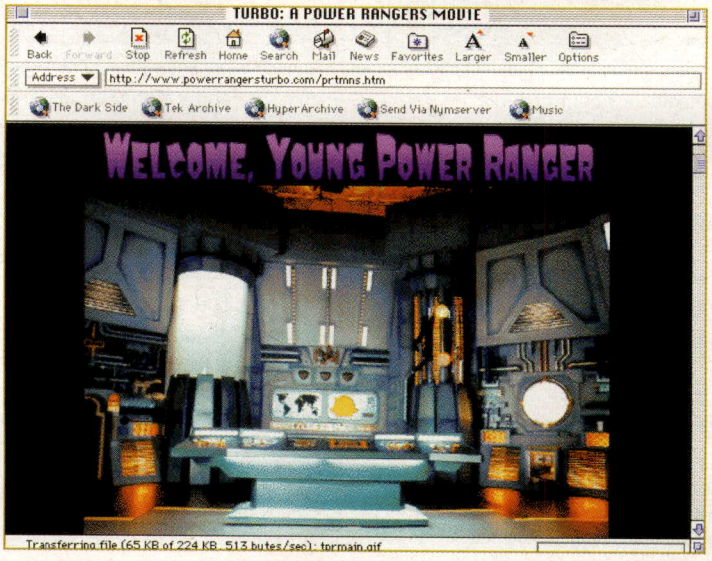
Go, Go, Turbo Power Rangers! Go jump.



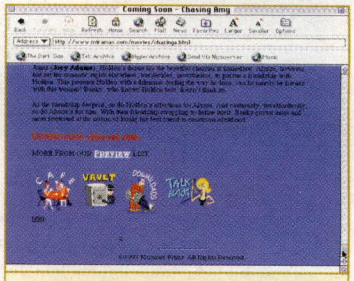
Simon Lovell, looking a bit like a Power Ranger himself in his evil, brightly coloured Yahoo-freebie sweatshirt, suggested Power Rangers Turbo (we really should reduce his sugar intake) a new film from 20th Century Fox. When you enter, it says "Welcome Young Power Ranger" and displays several slow-loading graphics. I won't bother with a plot, because there probably isn't one... you know the score. A few people in leotards, bouncing off the walls like hyperactive five year olds, beating up people wearing outfits that look like rejects from 60s Godzilla movies. If the future of the human race ended up in the hands of some idiot American college students wearing brightly coloured romper suits and saying things like "Ready to Rumble!" and "Wind Chaser, Ready to Howl!", then I think it'd be time to get on the first ship to Mars. Good site — if you like Power Rangers. Bleugh.

Address: **http://www.powerrangersturbo.com/**

Rating:



Chasing Amy



A little known soon-to-become cult film from the US. Ho hum.

Chasing Amy is the last in the 'cult' New Jersey trilogy, and follows the fortunes of one Holden McNeil, (Ben Affleck) who is the joint created of a hit comic book, called 'Bluntman and Chronic'. When he meets another female comic book artist, Alyssa Jones, (Joey Adams) Holden immediately starts drooling.

However, she's after someone else and he doesn't know if he can be friends with her or not... you get the idea. Anyway, the homepage isn't all that bad but neither is it particularly good. It has some pictures and a trailer, which aren't bad but there are better sites for other films. The film has yet to be released in the US but opens there at the end of March. It isn't known whether or not the film will appear over here — but I would have thought it pretty unlikely.

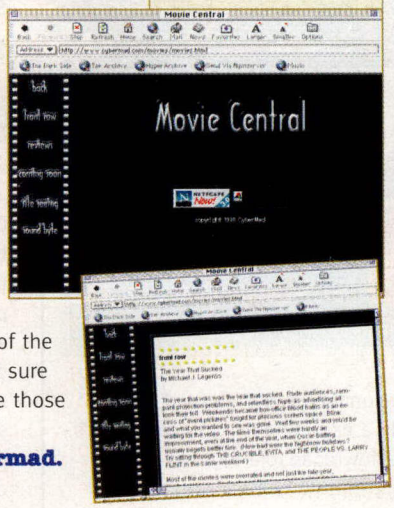
Address:
http://www.miramax.com/movies/chasinga.html

Rating:

Movie Central

MC is a magazine for the moviephile and features dozens of different sections, each of which is full to bursting with essays, reviews, previews and other such movie tomfoolery. The graphics are dark (gothic?) and the text is very well written. There is an article on 1996, which they claim was a totally terrible year for films. It's quite funny and lists the best and worst films of the year. Bit out of date though isn't it? There's good all-round information though and I quite like the dark graphics. The font could do with changing — but I'm just nit-picking really. Still, a few more articles like the one provided would be nice, since it doesn't take too long to read. What is there is entertaining enough and you know that since it has no official affiliation (that I know of) it hasn't been doctored by the sinister agents of the movie business, and you can be sure that the opinions there really are those of the author. Good stuff.

Gothic, or just sparse? Maybe both.



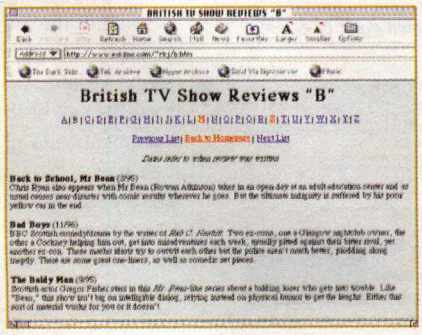
Address: http://www.cybermad.com/movies/movies.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

British TV Reviews

The Americans. Gotta love those guys.

Gee, those wacky Americans. This guide is written for an American, by an American. It is all about British TV programmes and it's meant as a kinf of 'survival' guide for the cautious American viewer. I found his review of Bottom quite amusing 'no joke is too low' he says. Well, seeing as I expect he's been raised on a diet of Cheers and the Golden Girls, Bottom may seem a bit disgraceful. They don't really have TV like we have over here. Poor souls. Life without Bottom is no life at all. But at least we know that this page is written by a real die-hard UK TV fanatic — he moved to the UK for a year, just to watch our TV. They must have really bad TV in his State. It's very well written, comprehensive and although the presentation isn't very good, all the information is. He even details programmes I don't know myself. Cool.



Address: http://www.eskimo.com/~rkj/b.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Quotes

80s.com Daily 100

80s.com offer loads of different services — 80s RealAudio and so forth — well now you can check out the daily 80s film quote. If you can be bothered.

Address : http://www.80s.com/Entertainment/Movies/Daily100

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

MoveQuotes

Quotable lines from movies, for .sig files, newsletters, and other such everyday uses. You never know, you may find it useful — maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow but soon. And for the rest of your life.

Address : http://www.wsite.com/moviequotes/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Some Quotes

Some Quotes. Not many. But some. Films covered include the Blues Brothers and Young Guns. 'You are not a God' and all that stuff, I suppose. Yes.

Address : http://www.owu.edu/~ccbrown/quotes.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Mother of all Quotes

One of the best quote sites on the Net — big, smart and graphically impressive. Certainly one of the more interesting sites anyway.

Address : http://www.pacificnet.net/~noname/quotes.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Movie Quote Homepage

Not too bad, but pretty much like most of the other pages here. The graphics are a bit poor, and it doesn't appear to have been updated recently unfortunately. Got some .wavs though!

Address : http://www.cse.psu.edu/~noonan/movie.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Mr. Hollywood's Realm of Movie Quotes

An unattractive *Geocities* site, which offers little new. Bit rubbish but it could be worse. There's a page of Dawn of the Dead quotes out there somewhere, go find that instead. I seem to have lost my bookmark.

Address : http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/4969/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

My Favourite Quotes

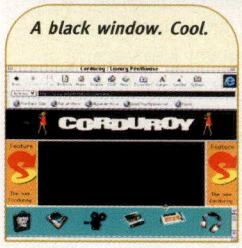
They might be his favourites but they aren't so good. Stick to one of the bigger sites, you won't regret it.

Address : http://grove.ufl.edu/~cirop78/movies.html

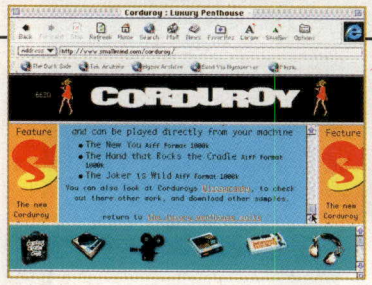
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Fed up with Simon Lovell constantly playing Michael Jackson and Bryan Adams, Paul Bartlett sets out in search of taste!

Courdroy



A black window. Cool.



Remember Courdroy? They've been around for a few years, and now is supposedly comeback time. Of course, a Web site is a part of the all-important comeback routine. Sadly, this site doesn't bode well for the group. First impressions of the Courdroy page are good. It has nice colours, reasonably well organised frames and good graphics. However, after only a few minutes, you can tell it's not going to be so great after all. The downloadable Internet-Only tracks aren't even online and it appears that when they are, they will be in .aiff format. This means that the quality will be appaling and that it will take ages to download. If the Webmaster is reading this, I would strongly advise moving to MP3. A stereo CD quality track can be provided for download at only 2-3 megs. Still, I suppose you had better add the rest of the site first – there's not much here. A contact address, the same photo in about 30 places and that's about it.

Address: http://www.smallmind.com/courdroy

Rating:

Billboard Online

Despite the money making attempts, after all this isn't bad.

Of course, chances are that if you're a trendy music fan you'll already be reading the excellent SESSIONS magazine, which is created by some of the other folk in this very office (the ones with more taste than us, apparently). But shameless plugs aside, Billboard is an altogether different type of music magazine. It is regularly updated (every day) and tends to cover mostly American music. Outrageously, they expect you to pay to use some of the site — even though it's plastered with adverts. I mean, it's good but I would never pay just to be able to see a few old articles (they allow you to search the archives). Still, the free information is plentiful and there is more than enough to occupy 10 minutes of your time every morning (maybe more, considering the time some of those damn graphics take to load). You can even download some samples of current chart hits. A very good resource, but I wouldn't bother paying anything for the old stuff, unless I was researching something specific.

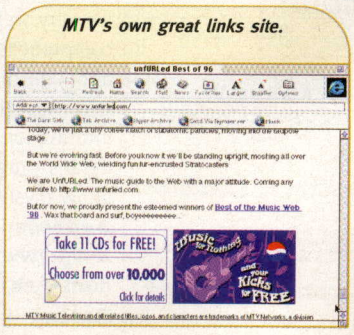
Address: http://www.billboard.com/

Rating:

Unfurled

Strange name, but *Unfurled* is a very nice way of finding the best music sites on the Web. At the moment it needs a lot of work (it isn't finished yet) but its two pages are pretty well done. The section where all the pages are rated seems pretty smart and the best musically oriented sites of 1996 include *Billboard Online*, *Lollapalooza* and surprisingly, an unofficial site — the *Unofficial Soundgarden Homepage*. I've reviewed some of the sites featured in this very section. It's run by MTV, so of course, they gave themselves an award too. Each winner also has a 'hey, thanks' .wav file, which is very stupid and annoying. Never mind. Aside from the minor annoyances, it's a nice guide to the various music sites out there and the winners are all pretty varied and should keep you occupied for a little while at least.

God knows when they're going to finish it though — surely it should be done by now. Unless they are hoping to keep the 1996 awards up into the next century. Expect lots from this site in the future. Disappointing — some of the panelists seem to have a vested interest in all of the sites mentioned on their pages.

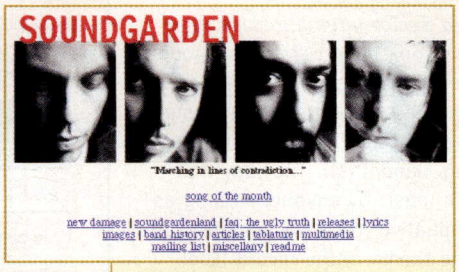


MTV's own great links site.

Address: http://www.unfurled.com/

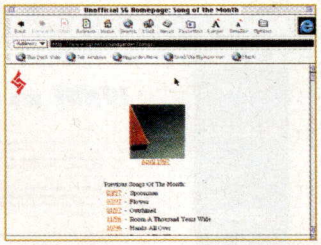
Rating:

The Unofficial Soundgarden Homepage



Want to know more about SoundGarden? Go here. Now.

As unofficial sites go, this is a goodie. In fact, as any sort of site goes, this is a goodie. It's professional quality anyway and matches — and indeed surpasses — the kind of quality we've got used to on a normal everyday official site. There are plenty of articles and so forth and enough for any fan to keep themselves occupied for a considerable amount of time. There's even a search engine and a song of the month. The song of the month is very interesting. It offers a lot of insight and information on just one particular song. For example, this month the song is Spoonman and there's a lot of info on the song and loads of different (and partly exclusive) pictures. There are also sound clips and video clips! It must take up an outrageous amount of disk space (each mpeg is up to 7 megs in size, so you can imagine the bandwidth this must be eating up). Each month must take the Webmaster weeks to prepare. The poor guy must be some sort of fanatic — but all the same it's a very good effort.



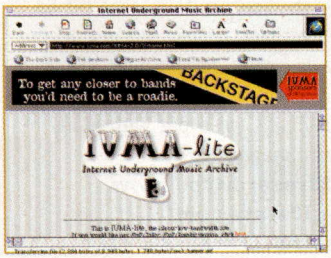
Address: http://www.sgi.net/soundgarden/
Rating:

Internet Underground Music Archive (IUMA)

If you like underground music, this is a great site.

The famous *Underground Music Archive* has been around for a while, and offers much in the way of *RealAudio*, MP3, and other sound formats. It proudly declares that it is 'The Net's First Free Hi-Fi Music Archive' — and it is too. Of course, it isn't a copyright theft racket and they have permission to include all these sounds online. You won't find any Spice Girls material on here (thank God!). It's all unsigned bands and stuff like that. There's plenty of text based content too, and even a European mirror. It's not quite as 'Underground' as it may seem though, since they are out to sell you stuff at the end of the day. Besides that, the amount of songs on here is totally without competition and although soon it may be overshadowed by such massive MP3 sites, this type of content is rarely seen. Loads of full songs in a variety of formats, although the audience is limited to fans of hard-core and little known underground groups.

Address: http://www.iuma.com/
Rating:



Music Bootlegs

PegLeg

PegLeg is a reasonably new bootleg archive, where users are encouraged to provide MP3 versions of their own bootlegs on the site. Pretty empty at the moment.
Address: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~skurla/pegleg/
Rating:

Alt.Music.Bootlegs

This is the FAQ for the Newsgroup Alt.music.bootlegs, and it's a well written guide to what can and can't be done on the newsgroup, as well as an introduction to bootlegging in general. Pretty cool.
Address: ftp://ftp.visi.com/users/astanley/ambfaq.txt
Rating:

Beatles Underground

The best underground Beatles page on the Internet. Has plenty of *RealAudio* out-takes from various Beatles songs. A pretty good page.
Address: http://www.primenet.com/~shears/beatles/index.html
Rating:

Oasis Bootlegs

If you like Oasis, you'll probably like this too. The presentation is certainly nothing special — but then again the information provided is pretty good. Oasis bootleg fans might find it worthwhile.
Address: http://www.cslab.vt.edu/~mleiderm/
Rating:

Led Zeppelin

Led Zeppelin have been popular for years and of course their bootlegs are often sought after. This page offers lists of the available bootlegs and some other related information.
Address: http://www.northcoast.com/~steves/ledboots.htm
Rating:

Grateful Dead Boots

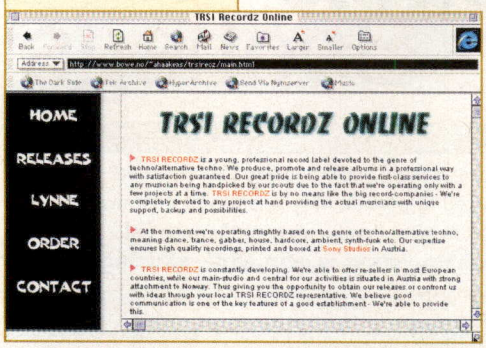
The Grateful Dead have always been pretty OK when it comes to bootlegs and now you can get in on the act, thanks to this guide to both the bootlegs and the band.
Address: http://www.winternet.com/~edoherty/
Rating:

REM

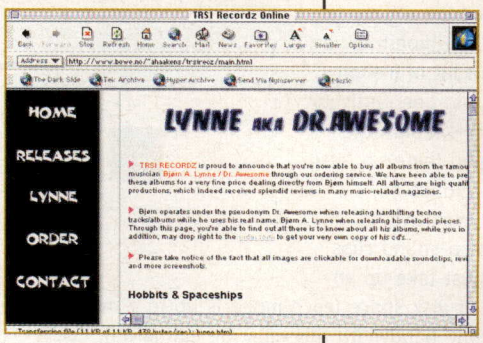
Fans of REM may want to look at this page, which also includes a few pictures and the like. The URL might be a bit daft but it's quite a good page if you like REM. I don't though.
Address: http://www.escape.com/~spyro/rem/remhome.html
Rating:

TRSI/Fairlight Recordz

TRSI Recordz *offer brilliant Amiga music.*



TRSI (The Red Sector International) and *Fairlight* have long been very major groups on the computer underground. Their records (sorry, *Recordz*) division has produced master pieces by such established musicians as Bjorn Lynne and Groo's Band/CNCD. They say that they will publish music by anyone, so long as they have the initiative to create the music and it fits in with the theme of the record label. The label is dedicated to techno and alternative techno, and they have been at it now for quite a while. From humble beginnings as software pirates and elite coders/crackers, *Fairlight/TRSI* are now a major force on the Internet and there can't be anyone in the underground who hasn't heard of them — they began in the eighties, on the C64. *Fairlight* seem to have really changed their image lately but you can still catch a glimpse of the old group at **http://www.fairlight.com/just4fun/.** Gotta love those crazy crackers.



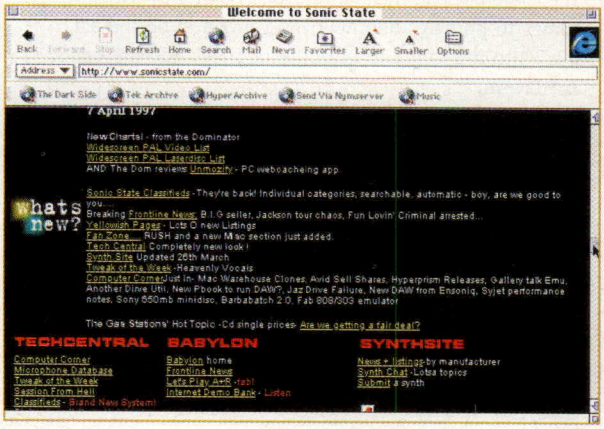
Address: http://www.bowe.no/~ahaakens/trsirecz/main.html

Rating:

Sonic State

Loads of content and nice, dark presentation.

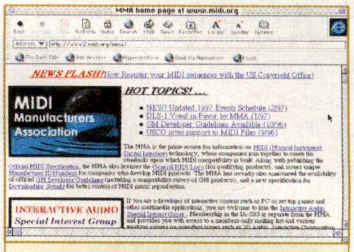
Sonic State is a bit different from most musically oriented sites, especially in that it is so massive. It has lots of links at the bottom that look as though they are external, but they all link to sections within the site itself. Woo. It also (gasp) has a sense of humour. For example, you can vote on a 'Burning Question' — the one at the time of writing is "The Spice Girls. Is hanging to good for 'em? Vote!" And vote I did. I voted for hanging them of course — and the majority of other visitors to the site agreed with me. Currently, 53% are in favour, with a good 15% undecided. 'Let 'em Swing', as the site so nicely puts it. Nice bit of interactivity — and the rest of the site is pretty damn smart too. A very good and comprehensive music site, on a par with many real music magazines.



Address: http://www.sonicstate.com/

Rating:

Midi.org



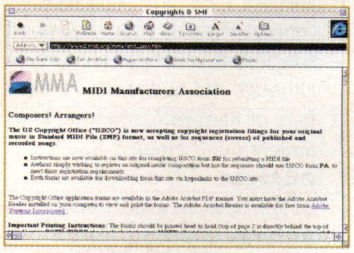
Revive the days of Bontempi organs, with MIDI sound!

You might not think that MIDI has much function in this world of 32bit audio and multi-speaker surround-sound but Midi is still the most compact form of audio data in the world. Well. Sort of. Midi can be used to great effect if the composer knows what he's doing, and you're using the right hardware/software combo. Web authors have realised this and embedded Midi audio into Web pages. That'll be why that terrible plinky-plonk music plays whenever you load up some cheap second-rate homepage.

Anyway, the Midi homepage offers much of the latest information regarding the Midi standard, and other related information. Sadly, I can't understand a word of the technical gibberish but it looks... well... great — if you can understand it. Unfortunately I never owned an Atari ST and so have never bothered to find out much about it. This doesn't seem like an ideal place to start either, but for experienced Midi-heads, this is a must.

Address: http://www.midi.org

Rating:



Music Stop

One of the smaller online music shops.

There are many, many music shops online, including quite a few in the UK ones. *Music Stop* is one such store, which allows you to make some purchases online. They hope to expand their mail order/online order section but at the moment they sell much of their stock through a couple of shops in the south of England. You can see which are the top selling CDs and also email them if you are looking for an obscure record, which may not be available elsewhere. Unfortunately, the site isn't the best looking in the world — in many respects it looks somewhat amateurish — but it's passable. The lack of a secure server is also a bit of a disappointment. That said, if you email them, they will phone you up so that you can make your order over the phone, so it isn't a total disaster. They say that they hope to get a secure server sometime soon, which would make it a bit more user-friendly. Still, not bad.

Address: http://www.music-stop.co.uk

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Music Shoppe

Music Shoppe is currently less of a 'shoppe' and more of a music archive. You can download all manner of great tunes, from MIDI to MP2/3. The MP3 section has to be the most impressive, with plenty of CD Quality stereo audio for downloading. Unfortunately, his taste in music leaves a little to be desired but if you like U2 and Gary Glitter, then you'll lap this up. He is also advertising his own music and he asks you to download some of it. Well, you may as well try, seeing as his connection to the Internet is 100 times faster than a T1, apparently, which is slightly difficult to comprehend. Well anyway, the data should come pouring into your machine — well, at a rate of about 3k a second on a 33k modem, which is (quickly whips out a calculator) 13 minutes for a full song (give or take a few hours). Anyway, if your modem is too weedy to download 2.5 megs in any decent amount of time, then you can stick to the MIDI creations, which don't sound quite as good, as you might imagine.

Address: http://www.musicshoppe.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

This raytraced image must have taken quite a while to render!

Music Legends

Bagism

Bagism is one of the best John Lennon sites on the Web. Previously held on a university server, Yoko Ono and her lawyers forced the site to close — but now it's back (minus copyrighted material). Pretty cool!

Address: http://www.bagism.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Elvis.co.uk

The rather sad Official Elvis Fan Club of Great Britain page — this needs some work. Get rid of that sad little Java applet too. Thank you very much! U-huh!

Address: http://www.elvis.co.uk/

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Elton John

Elton John has long been banned in this office but Simon still insists that he is a musical genius, so here you are. This isn't a bad site but the graphics look a bit cheap. Could be worse (try **http://www .eltonjohn.com**, now that is weird).

Address: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/LadyChocIce/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Paul Simon

Paul Simon has written some of my favorite music and here is just one unofficial homepage. It's not updated often but it contains information and links to other sites.

Address: http://www.best.com/~rlai/Paul-Simon.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Bob Dylan

If you want a decent page about Zimmerman, this *Geocities* one is a pretty good bet. It has loads of song lyrics and a few articles, enough to keep the average fan occupied for a while.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/1711/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Michael Jackson

Loath as I was to include MJ, Simon insisted upon it. There are extracts from MJ's latest interview about his baby ("his eyes twinkle when I sing to him"),and various other sycophantic articles.

Address: http://www.primenet.com/~lobo7/project.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

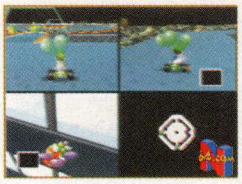
Gary Glitter

No, I'm serious. Gary Glitter has a few homepages, and this is one of the best (actually, it's appalling, but you have to admire someone who would do something so awful, don't you?).

Address: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/vanderlinden/glitter.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

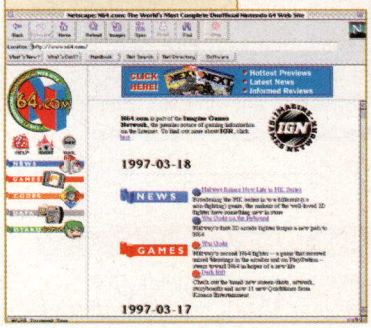
Everyone's raving on about the new 64Bit console but what is the reaction like on the Net? With sink plunger in hand, Simon "Mario" Lovell finds out more...



N64.com

As Nintendo send the SNES to the console cauldron, they release the N64, capable of smooth 3D graphics — meaning even better looking games. And with the launch of such a powerful piece of kit, it was inevitable that a string of home pages would arrive. *N64.com* welcomes both owners of the machine and those who are just interested to find out more about the titles available, as well as the ones to come in the near future. Like most other big video game pages, this one also features the usual collection of regularly updated news and cheats. Also, by the time you are reading this, a chat area should have been set up so that you can talk to other N64 fans through the site. Probably the biggest benefit of the site is the game coverage. Together with quite a lot of literature on each title you will also find (as long as they are available) a very good selection of quality screenshots. As long as the updating is kept up to scratch, this is a worthy bookmark for all N64 addicts.

One of the better looking N64 efforts.



Address: http://www.n64.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Nintendo Power Source

The only place to get official information.

Apparently this is the only official source of N64 information. Maybe it is, but I can tell you that the unofficial pages such as *N64.com* and *N64 HQ* are superior. There are several reasons for this. The first is that the site not only has a lot of images on each page but frames have also been put into effect, which slows the whole site down even more. I was fortunate enough to be using a 33.6 modem, but I fear that others will not be so lucky and even I had some problems with various pages. As a news database, *NPS* is pretty good but when it comes down to covering the latest titles, it doesn't even come close to some of the other sites I found — most official sites are like this though. When it comes down to it, there isn't much information here that you wouldn't find on one of the unofficial pages, mainly for the fact that the authors of those will check this site out every day and rip off the information anyway. Painful for Nintendo, but true all the same. You can win a trip to Nintendo's HQ... but that's only open to American or Canadian citizens — d'oh!

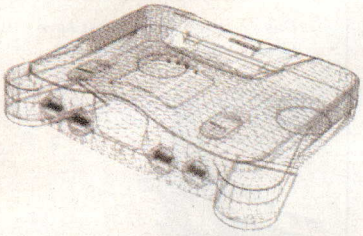
Address:
http://www.nintendo.com/hallway/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

N64 HQ

In my opinion, this is the best N64 site available to date.

Claiming to be 'The World's Most Popular, Experienced and Comprehensive N64 Site', *N64 HQ* is setting quite a few standards on the Net console scene. The front page is literally packed with links to all kinds of different areas; News Centre, Software Sector, Preview Palace, Feature Articles — and that's naming just a few. Apart from just using 'Updated' or 'New' logos to tell people about changes made, a 'Highlights' section in the middle of the first page acts as the day's headlines, which I thought was a great way of encouraging people back to the site. And of course, this makes it easier to see if updates have been made or not — let's hope that they keep up with the good work! Like *N64.com*, the site is unofficial but still makes a brilliant resource. Even though the authors don't make a big deal out of it, the Sights & Sounds area offers game screenshots, movies and sound files from games. There are even system photos to pick up. If you want to express your view on a game, then a polling booth is soon to open. Because of the amount of information, a search engine would be a good idea but apart from that, a must visit.



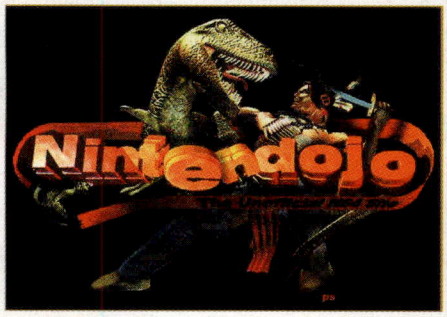
Address:
http://www.n64hq.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Nintendojo

Nintendojo — *now that's a great name!*

The author(s) here at *Nintendojo* have taken the simple approach to designing their N64 site, which I was quite surprised about, seeing as the initial intro-page logo was graphically amazing. Yes, you will notice an initial lack of pictures but once you get past the front page it all changes for the better. Like *N64 HQ*, this site also puts all the updates on the main page so that you instantly know what to look at, rather than just browsing around in the search for new additions. Apart from reviews, news, cheats, machine specs and a chat section, the 'Game' area was, for me, the most interesting. It comprises of a complete list of upcoming games on one page, with current, rumoured and cancelled games under different links. If you have a question that you would like to ask about the N64 or games then the 'Email Bag' section is the place to go. Not as good looking as some of the others but info wise, it's got a lot.



Address: **http://members.aol.com/nindojo/**

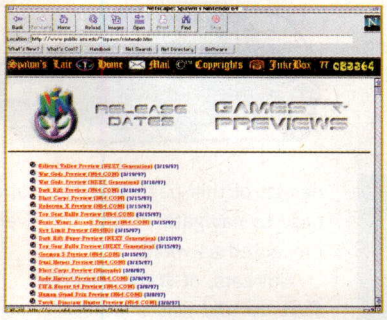
Rating:

Spawn's Nintendo 64

If you own a N64 then this is another site worth checking out.

This is another example of a pretty good personal effort. Spawn has his own main site, which comprises of lots of other sub pages and this is another one of them. Design, as you've probably noticed by the screenshots, is up with the times and I can tell you that as far as the content goes, it may not be as comprehensive as *N64.com* or *N64 HQ* but it's not far off.

By clicking on the Nintendo logo, you will be taken to a smart looking page which is home to such things as system photos, stats, memory card and upgrade details. There was even an N64 modem picture but I was unable to find the news story which related to this. My only real quarrel came from navigating around the site. The organisation is fine but once you've moved from the front page, because frames have been used, it's impossible to use the 'Back' button.



Address: **http://www.public.asu.edu/~ispawn/nintendo.htm**

Rating:

Games

Don's Mario 64 Page

In search of Mario images? If so then there are over 200 here. If you don't just want one or two then all of them can be downloaded at once (over 5 Megs worth). Movie files can be downloaded if you use *Windows*.

Address: **http://www.ismi.net/~donl/**

Rating:

Game 64

Using five frames, loads of games can be found here complete with screenshots and previews. It also gives visitors details on where the games are released; Europe, USA or Japan. Loading is on the slow side.

Address: **http://nth.simplenet.com/n64/n64.htm**

Rating:

Shadows of the Empire FAQ

A very basic solution to the game, with no screenshots apart from the ones at the top of the individual page. For a mainly text based page, loading is dreadful.

Address: **http://www.users.lith.com/~kevin/sote/**

Rating:

Super Mario Kart

Includes a review of the game plus cheats and best time pages. A frame is used to keep all internal page links constantly on screen and updated are logged at a 'What's New' page. Big for a single game page.

Address: **http://www.campbellsvil.edu/~jeradr/smk.html**

Rating:

TUROK: Dinosaur Hunter

Unfortunately, every time I tried to load this page (located at Acclaim's main site) it crashed! I'm sure if you can get it to work then it'll be great... but who knows?

Address: **http://www.acclaimnation.com/anation/twitch/interactive/turok/TUROKinter.html**

Rating:

The Killer Instinct Web

Although it's not solely based around the N64 version of the game, once it's released there will be loads of coverage. At the moment there are chat rooms, quizzes, newsgroups, news, announcements, storylines, character details and more at this good looking site.

Address: **http://www.gil.net/~hardcore/frames.html**

Rating:

Pilotwings 64

A vile looking page with a few hints on how to play the game. One of the main sites is bound to have better coverage of the game than this lame attempt.

Address: **http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Arcade/6454/pilotwings_nintendo_64.html**

Rating:

Resources

Once more Gary Joyce steps into the world of new resources, finding out the best (and sometimes the worst) of what's available out there on the Web.

Muck Master

The Muck Master *was a favourite of mine...*

From the sublime...

My first visit of the day was to **http://www.cubleys.uk.com/index.htm**, the homepage of Cubleys of Ainsdale, a used car dealership. A lovely table — and that's about all, hmm, what was that about the worst of the web?

The next place I stopped at was UK Property located at **http://www.uk-property.com/uk/index.html**, where I

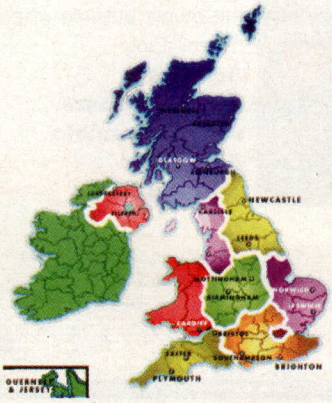
was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the pages and the presentation of the properties for sale or rent. This is a very useful resource for those of you looking for property to buy — or if you've the cash to splash out on a luxury flat in London (ahem!).

To the delicious?

Third stop was at the homepage of the International Cocoa Organisation, which can be found at **http://www.icco.org/**. Established in 1973, this organisation invites entries to design a new logo for its 25th anniversary. A short single page site, the idea none the less appeals — and I can imagine that the prize would make the ardent chocaholics amongst us very very happy indeed!

Get your motor running...

Unusually, there were quite a few new motoring sites around this month — something I hadn't really noticed much of before suddenly seemed to be bursting out in abundance.



Air conditioning parts for automobiles are yours for the buying at **http://vehvac.com/**, a very simple site containing a set of slogans best only imagined, and not described. From cars to combine harvesters, these people can 'elp your breathing more easily...

http://www.fraser.co.uk/ is the home of Fraser, the Manufacturers of Quality Agricultural and Industrial Equipment, where all your farming needs can be met, from the Mill Mixer right through to the Muck Master. Well, sometimes it seems that the web is full of manure... Sorry about that, in comparison to some of the sites listed, this was well designed and a nice marketing site. Any Internet

FRASER

capable farmers have a reliable resource here.

Woof! wouldn't you love to get behind the wheel of one of these?

Get out on the Highway

Ryland, the home of contract hire in the UK was another of the numerous vehicle-based visits I made and you can visit them at **http://www.multifleet.co.uk/**, a very nicely designed site, showing what you can do with simple HTML and graphics. With very little in the way of embellishments, this site is clear and easy to navigate.

Martins Self Drive was next stop on the Highway, at **http://www.bbi.co.uk/martins/index.html** probably the brightest and best designed of the fleet of new vehicle sites, and one of the nicest sites I'd visited all month. The themed

design of this page was clear and easy to navigate — and very well presented as well.

Fiat cars, at **http://www.fiat.co.uk/** was another company with a newly updated site. Graphic links lead you around a very well presented site.

To bring a close to this section, I visited the fresh site of Alfa Romeo at **http://www.alfaromeo.co.uk/**, a framed site with a novel twist — I must admit that the right hand bar was a new one on me — but it

The Fiat page is easy to navigate.

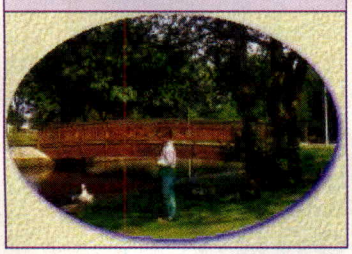
looked exceptional and certainly made this page stand out a bit more than the average two-frame sites. Well done to the chaps at Alfa Romeo for this one...

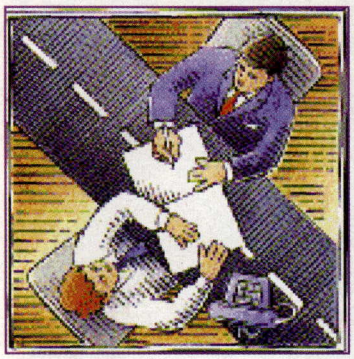
What's it like in your town?

Stevenage was my next visit, not literally of course but virtually. **http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/** is the address to visit. If you'd like to know more about this Hertfordshire town, then this site is the one for you.

I've been going on about this sort of thing for some time, saying how places in America seem to have gotten the jump on us here in the UK, having more abode-based sites than anywhere else in the world and have rather put us to shame. As I've been reporting, this situation is changing, with more and more

Stevenage at its tranquil best. The balmy breezes, the still waters...





council authorities and even individuals, uploading civic pride to the Internet.

Some of the information pages are a tad terse but the history of the town was very interesting, and I must admit that I almost (I said almost!) got interested enough to actually want to visit the town in reality. Sorry to the inhabitants of Stevenage but it's not the sort of place that leaps off the UK map at you, well until now perhaps...

Oh, go climb a rock...

http://www.wildcountry.co.uk/ is the homepage of *Wild Country*, a rock climbing outfitter's from Buxton, Derbyshire. A brilliant design, simple and yet very fitting with the whole rock-climbing, mountaineering type of thing, young and invigorating.

Bizzarely enough, I can't find the right metaphor for the site — visit it and you'll see what I mean — it's a kind of Pepsi Max type of thing, which really works and looks way cool!

And finally,

http://www.waterweb.co.uk/main/index.htm is the homepage of *WaterMark Websites*, a company who design Websites.

With only three sites listed (two of which are under construction) I was disappointed with the design I saw, since I thought that there was not much here that the enthusiastic home user couldn't have done with a simple HTML editor and a little knowledge. It was all nice enough I suppose but would you really pay people money to do what — with a little time and effort — you could very easily do for yourself...

PIT OF THE MONTH

Videobytes Live

http://www.videobytes.com/

VIDEOBYTES
HOME ADD URL ADS HELP CONTACT

I didn't find any sites, during my trawl of the newcomers, which were varied or large enough to qualify for the site of the month — to put it simply, no one fired my imagination.

In keeping with the election fever, which was sweeping the nation (yawn) at the time that I was plugging through the newest additions to the Web for all you wonderful people, I thought that I'd completely ignore politics and do something less boring instead. Accordingly, I found a search engine which lists live events on the Web.

I found that they've buried themselves behind advertising hoardings — which annoyed me — but I ploughed through and was glad I had. Not!

A full library of audio and audiovisual links, including links to all the major plug-ins and all that jazz, or so they claim...

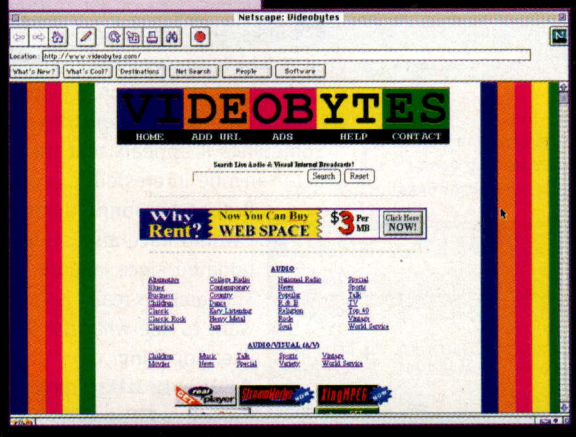
What actually occurred was every internal link failed to work — alright, they did have a

There are presently no 24-hour live broadcasters of Vintage programming.
Search Live Audio & Visual Internet Broadcasts!
Search Reset

disclaimer stating that the site was being worked on but to advertise the site on search engines,and then include links to unfinished pages isn't really on — just leave blanks in place to be updated later, don't link to non-existent pages, because the File Not Found message is one of the most annoying in the world when you're browsing.

Perhaps when it's finished this site might be worthwhile, at the moment it serves no purpose and shouldn't have been created.

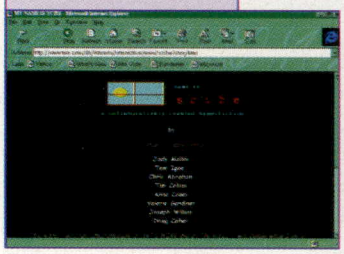
What can I say? Very rude words indeed!



The world of Literature online is sometimes strange, often bizarre but always great. Gary Joyce gives us the second part of his A-Z listing of some of the current top sites available.

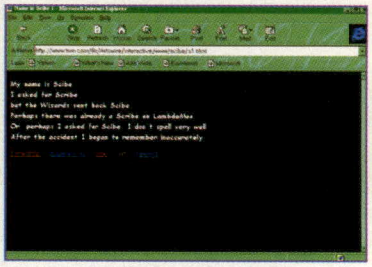
My Name is Scribe

A tad simplistic on the design but very good.



Surely they mean Scribe don't they? A collaboratively written selection of verse and stories, this site looks like it was designed using a BBC model B (remember them) but fortunately doesn't suffer as a result of that. In fact, it's somewhat of a nostalgia trip to plough through this selection of whimsy. There is some highly personal stuff here — again, most sites of this nature tend to be written by people with a message of some kind. Whether the writings themselves are cathartic or whether the act of publishing helps psychologically, I wouldn't hazard a guess but it seems that a lot of people find a lot of comfort in the knowledge that others know about and have read their stories.

Well worth a visit, there are some interesting works here amongst the writings and some stuff that many people will identify with.

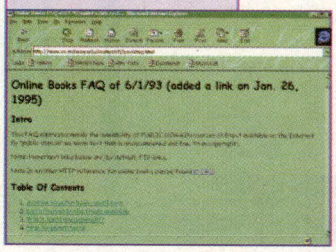


Address: **http://www.tmn.com/Oh/Artswire/interactive/www/scibe/story.html**

Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇

Online Books FAQ

Utterly duff, a site full of terminally boring and out-of-date links.



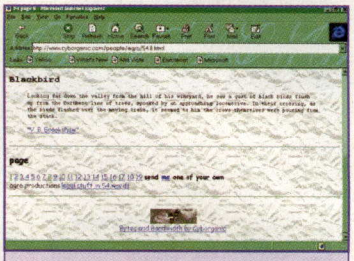
A basic resource of lists of various kinds and hypertext links, this site is one of the many US resource listings sites which are terminally boring. I agree that these sites hold useful information, I just wonder what the point of having such an un-interesting library of links really is. Sometimes it appears that the point of these pages is to deter anyone interested in a subject from pursuing the matter any further, by boring them to the point of indifference.

I would have also scored this site higher had it actually been updated since January 1995 — the date of the last addition. This archive really isn't worth visiting at all, unless you really want to see what the worst site that I found this month looks like. Appalling.

Address: **http://www.cs.indiana.edu/metastuff/bookfaq.html**

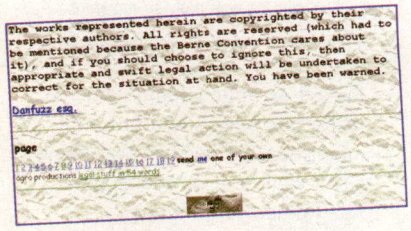
Rating: ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

Page 54



Updated, with more bandwidth and chock full of 54-word long musings.

Now actually titled simply *54* this page has changed a lot since I first bookmarked it, changing servers recently to gain more bandwidth (which was much needed, since it used to be as slow as an extremely slow thing going ever so slowly when stuck in treacle).



The main aim of the site is to publish short poems and tales — of 54 words in length. Not 53 words or 55 words, just 54 words. No, I don't know why 54 words and not any other number, maybe that was the number of the site author's house when he was young or something.

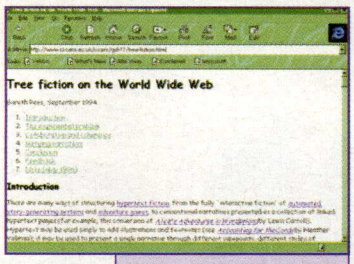
The work here varies from the naff to the extremely thought provoking and some of it is sheer brilliance, especially considering the strict restriction of working to within the 54 word frame. Well worth a visit by anyone who is interested in (very) short works of fiction and verse, this site has always been at the forefront of modern, well presented hyperliterature — and remains there still.

Address: **http://www.cyborganic.net/people/agro/**

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

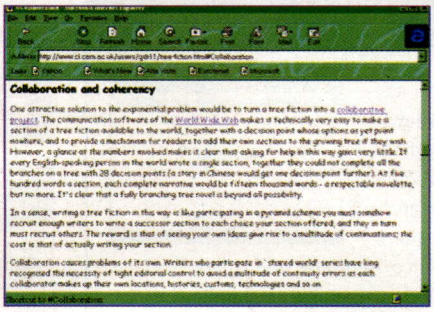
Tree Fiction on the World Wide Web

A brilliant resource site, this is a précis of tree fiction — where each branch node is a decision made and all possibilities are covered by collaboration between writers; a sort of Pyramid authoring if you like.



Complex tree-fiction analysis. Great site!

There are a number of categories looked into here, as well as links to other types of research tools in the hyperliterature arena and links to stories of the kind described within the site.



Not highly graphical in nature, the site more than compensates for this by being well presented and also highly informative and very interesting.

A must visit for anyone with any interest in either writing or contributing to this kind of resource, or to teachers of literature in general, since this sort of work can't be left out of the core curriculum for literature for very much longer, since it undoubtedly represents a major part of the future of literature.

Address: http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/gdr11/tree-fiction.html

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

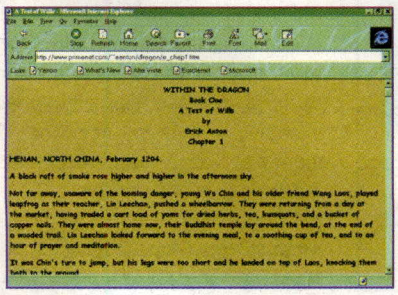
Within the Dragon

Historical fiction at its most accurate and very gripping...

One of several story sites held within the main pages of Erick Anton, this story is based in 13th Century China, just before the invasion of the Golden Horde from Mongolia.

The depth of historical knowledge here is fantastic, and any student of that period of history would be well advised to come here, just for some insights into the kind of world it was in those times.

For people who are just interested in that time — and Chinese mythology in general — this story is wonderful, well written and full of life-like characters. The other stories available from this site are all also worth a read, however I'd advise anyone wanting to read this guy's work to do so slowly, otherwise your head might explode from the sheer volume of creative fiction available.



Bookmark this site and return again and again.

Address: http://www.primenet.com/~eanton/dragon/e_page1.htm

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

A brief A-Z of Hypertext Literature

The Cypher

It takes a while to get into this but it's well worth the effort of clicking through the intro pages to get to the meat of the story.

Address: http://www.2launch.com/cypher/CYPHER.HTML

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Dark Lethe

A quite incredible journey through the darker recesses of the imagination. Phew, sorry got a bit overcome with emotion there... A wonderful site.

Address: http://www.innotts.co.uk/~leo/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Florida Research Ensemble

A collection of various resources. Links, poetry and other kinds of hyperliterature are all contained here. Well worth a visit.

Address: http://www.ucet.ufl.edu/~gulmer/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

HyperLiterature/HyperTheory

This site proves my comments earlier about the core curriculum having to include hyperliterature. This is a US university site and is part of an offered course. Teachers must visit!

Address: http://ebbs.english.vt.edu/hthl/HyperLit_Home.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

HyperTerrorist's Timeline of Hypertext History

Again, a very boring simple layout but still worthy of a visit, on the grounds that the information here is quite fascinating to anyone who likes literature.

Address: http://www.mcs.net/~jorn/html/net/timeline.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Hypertext Breakdown

A treatise on how to present literature in the environment of hypertext, how to break it down and make it into hyperliterature. Worth a visit by any would be Cyber–authors.

Address: http://www.well.com/user/mmcadams/basic.units.main.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

riverText's Cafenet

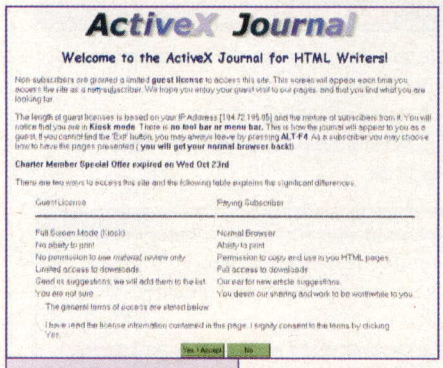
Literature, translations and chats on the contents of literature. This is a literature buff's haven of tranquillity on the Net.

Address: http://www.rivertext.com/

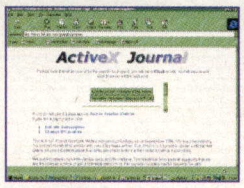
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Active HTML, ActiveX, Active content, the list seems endless — just about everyone seems to be getting Active, so Gary Joyce got active too...

ActiveX Journal for HTML Authors



Actively encourages the use of interaction.



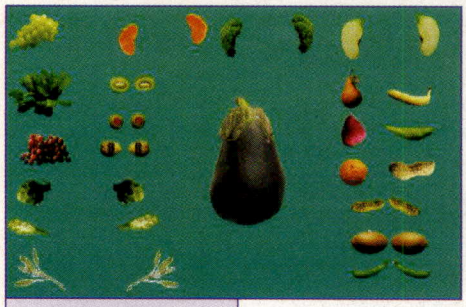
Whew! What can I say except, well, whew! A brilliant site devoted to programmers everywhere but be warned, you can only really view this site with *Microsoft IE3*, since *Netscape* and other browsers do not include the ability to handle the HTML layout control as well as the Microsoft product. If you're into active contents, then you really should be into this site, which is provided mainly for subscribers to the service, since as a visitor you can't get to some of the areas or articles contained here.

That said, the articles you can get to as a guest are more than sufficient for most people's needs, with links to *Javascript* stuff, and *Visual Basic* references as well as all the *ActiveX* articles and examples. A quite amazing resource for anyone out there interested in making their site a bit more interactive.

Address: http://www.folkarts.com/journals/activex/

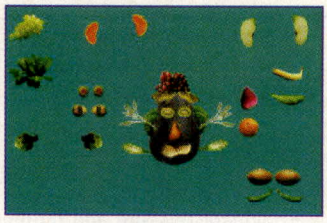
Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Mr Eggplant Head Active Page



Before and, to the right... after. Good fun!

A single page, which rates very highly in my opinion. Not for the originality of the idea, because Mr Potato Head has been around for years, and every kid in the world must be familiar with the idea of taking a blank face and adding arms, legs, eyes, you know the kind of thing... What we're talking about here is a virtual Mr Potato Head, Mr Eggplant Head, (that's an aubergine to you or me) with the fun of the original idea, all contained in active content, programmed in HTML and available to anyone with the control pad installed on their own machine.

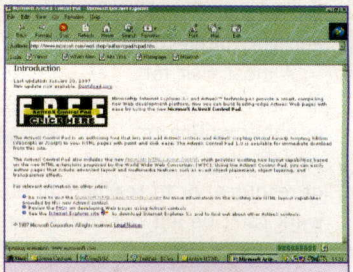


Brilliant fun and it can keep you amused for hours — well, it kept me amused for about half an hour the first time I found it. Whether that makes me sad or just a bit childish, I don't care — this page is wonderful fun and I love it!

Address: http://www.microsoft.com/ie/most/howto/layout/eggplant/eggplant.htm

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Microsoft ActiveX Control Pad



The place to go for ActiveX controls. Microsoft's download area.

This is, indeed, the Puppy. Microsoft's download area for the *ActiveX* control panel and if you want to seriously get involved with *ActiveX* controls and scripting, as well as the new *Active HTML* content, then this is the place to get it. With a 28.8 modem, you can expect to spend about 15 minutes downloading the panel. Sized at 2.73 Mb, it's a self-exploding executable which will provide you with all you need to create and view active content of this kind.

At the moment the panel is only available for *Windows 95* users with a 486 or better, and at least 10Mb of RAM, although if you've less than 16Mb I wouldn't advise it, since I've just upgraded from 24Mb to 48Mb and before I did the *ActiveX* stuff was seriously overloading my system. You have to be a bit serious about this sort of thing, because it's really system intensive — and you need the money to spend on more RAM.

Address: http://www.microsoft.com/workshop/author/cpad/cpad.htm

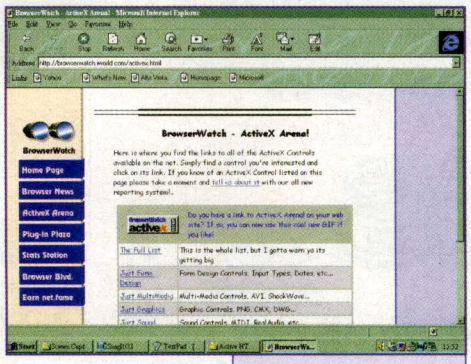
Rating: £ £ £ £ £

Browser Watch — ActiveX Arena

A listings service provided by IWorld, the disclaimer on the full listing tells you to watch out, because it's getting big.

They're telling porkies. It's not big — It's chuffing enormous!

There are a huge amount of *ActiveX* controls for you to browse and download here, from a vast variety of sources, including people like Microsoft and Shockwave.



A larger than vast listings service.

Most of the controls seem to be form buttons and the like, although there are multi-media controls, sound controls and graphics controls here too.

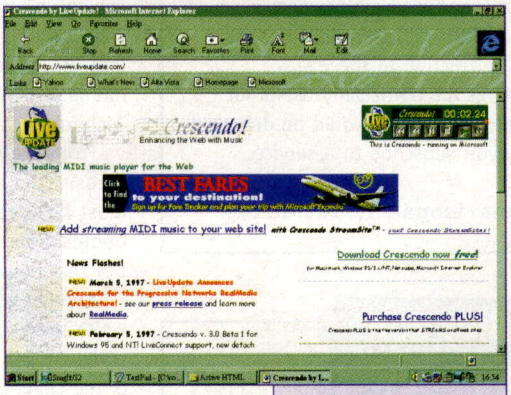
If you're *ActiveX* capable, and want to impress people with your Webpages, then here is a good stopping off point, on your search for stuff to include on an active site that'll knock the virtual socks off any visitors...

Address: http://browserwatch.iworld.com/activex.html

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Crescendo by LiveUpdate!

Available both as a plug-in, and as an *ActiveX* control, *Crescendo* is a streaming control for midi sound files, so that you can add streamed music to your Website or play streamed music, where people have included it on their own sites.



Dig some nifty midi files with Crescendo...

Crescendo is a brilliant streamer for midi based computer music, and whether you get the *ActiveX* control or the plug-in version, I would recommend it to anyone. It takes very little space, and the controls are easy to use.

Also included on this site is a list of sites which you need *Crescendo* for and information on using *Crescendo* on your own sites, including HTML for running the embedding options, and for automatically updating browsers that access your site.

Well worth a visit if you're into active content, and would like to get a bit more music into your life and your Web activity.

Address: http://www.liveupdate.com/

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Music, Maestro!

Decorative Home and Garden

A site which is provided for all you home enthusiasts out there. It also contains streamed music in the form of a floating juke box. A bit kitsch, but fun.

Address: http://www.decorativehome.com/main.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Zyggy'z ZZ Top Zone

If you like those Texas guys with long beards and guitars, then visit this site to hear streamed favourites from the past and present. Rock 'n Roll!

Address: http://www.bestweb.net/~bps02/zyggyz.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Music Room

If you can get through the first tune (a nauseating US medley, which starts with 'America, America') and you love music, then you'll love this site.

Address: http://www.tx-marketeers.com/musicroom/index2.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Duca Lucifero's Official Website

No, I don't know what that means, 'cos I don't speak Spanish. A site with some medieval midi music, as well as celtic and folk. Includes Londonderry Air, or "Danny Boy" to all musical peasants everywhere.

Address: http://www.areacom.it/html/arte_cultura/duke/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The Original TV theme song game

For all you people who miss the series "Name that Tune", here's a *JavaScript* site to take you down memory lane... Good fun.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/~hankin/tvgame.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Kris' Midi Page

Norweigan music on the Web? Whatever next? TV theme tune guessing games? Rest assured — it's not actually Norweigan music, just a Norweigan site. Phew!

Address: http://home.sn.no/~tomkrist/

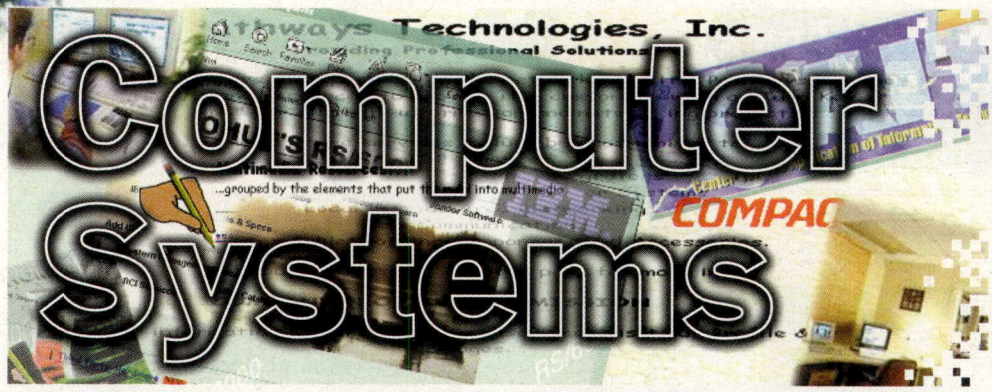
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

The IceMan's Hot Hits

Check out the worst rendition of "I'll be there for you" (theme to "Friends") in the world on this site. Some of the stuff is good, some is absolutely hideous!

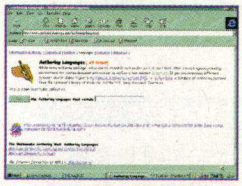
Address: http://www.webcom.com/hotice/hothits/jukebox.html

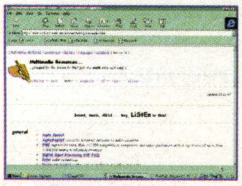
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇



We all use 'em to get online, and we all rely on them not to let us down... Gary Joyce searches the Web for Computer System-based Resources.

Authoring resources for non-programmers





Maricopa Community Colleges — Multimedia Authoring

Originally set up for the Authoring Group (TAG) this site is a programming resource for non-programmers, put here by one of the numerous American Community Colleges online.

A resource of programming languages, multi-media applications and various media links, this site has been placed in the top 5% by Point Communications, and highly graded by other Web ratings companies such as *Yahoo.*

This certainly is a good place to start if you're seeking multi-media based resources, as it's easy to navigate and well maintained.

A very nicely designed site — most of the links are text-based, making the site quick to load and still attractive to the eye.

The Multi-media Listservs mailing listings are particularly useful for those of you who like to receive updates, since these would be delivered automatically to your mail account once you subscribe to a service.

Good stuff.

Address: http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/authoring/

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Centre for the Application of Information Technology — Information Systems

Another US College site, this one is a listing service, with a comprehensive list of links to Information Technology sites all across the Web.

Newsgroups, Client server applications, GUI tools (Graphical User Interface), Data Warehousing, Software Engineering... the list goes on and on. There really is a world of information on a single page here, with internal #links to make navigation to categories easier. The site is mostly text-based but this doesn't detract from the fact that there is a vast amount of information here.

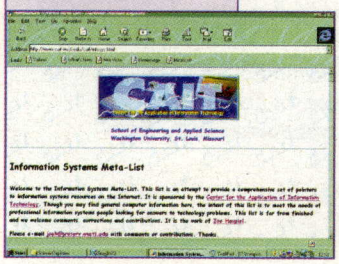
If you frequently use or look for Information Technology sites, of whatever category, then this page must be included in your bookmarks to help you navigate the Web without having to hit a search engine all the time.

A very good resource, and well worth the effort of a visit.

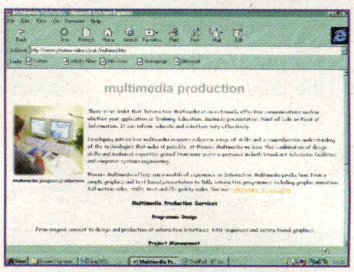
Address: http://www.cait.wustl.edu/cait/infosys.html

Rating: £ £ £ £ £

The CAIT site is well worth bookmarking!



Phoenix Video



A well designed UK site, with good use of animated GIFs on the front page.

The Website design page is brilliant — damn good use of *VRML 1.0*, with a TV-style display with mouse driven menu — very nice indeed — and a good advertisement for what they can do for your Website.

Another commercial site which could be worth a visit to someone browsing for systems information and to any commercial clients who want a UK-based provider of multi-media and video information.

The Web side of their work seems to be taking off. As you can tell by the name, *Phoenix* were originally involved in video and other real-world media, which has lead them into Information Technology and Multi-media.

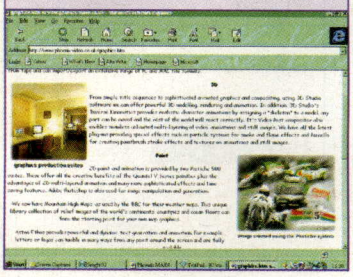
From the design on the Website, I'd say that their work must be exceptional, and the quotes from other sources bear out this opinion too.

Another good commercial site, which makes two this month — either I'm getting soft in my old age or the commercial providers have finally started listening to us, and actually now design with browsers in mind, as well as customers.

Address: http://www.phoenix -video.co.uk/main.htm

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

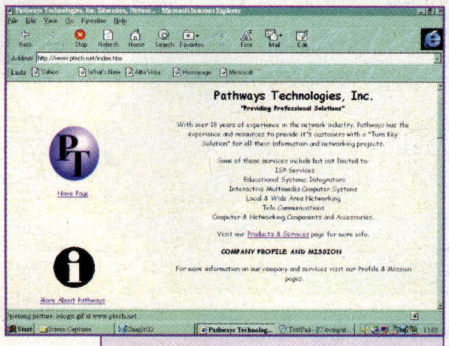
A very well designed site, a good advertisement for their other work.



Pathways Technologies Inc.

A company site — Pathway Technologies have over eighteen years of experience in the field of networking, including, obviously, working with the Internet itself.

I entered the site through their Education section, which carries the motto "Enhanced education through interactive multimedia."



A very well designed site. FrontPage *to the rescue!*

Having used computers at school back in the days when Information Technology consisted of usenet and a few BBS's, linked to by clunky old modems that you had to suction the old-style telephone receiver into (and then keep very quiet in case you interfered with the signal modulation) the motto is one that strikes a deep chord in me, since I have believed for a long time now that IT has an ever increasing place in education and schools.

As well as their other services, *Pathway* are also an ISP in the US and so are obviously dedicated to the Internet, since they have a vested interest in providing solutions to IT based system problems and solutions.

A very well designed site, I think I recognised some of the standard Microsoft icons here, so someone's been using *FrontPage*...

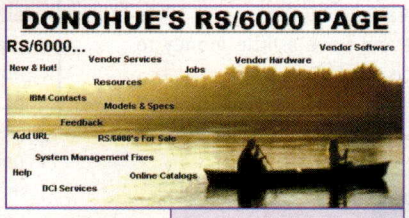
A good commercial site, and I don't say that about everyone!

Address: http://www.ptech.net/index.htm

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Donohoe's RS/6000 Page

The IBM RS/6000 is an acronym for the IBM RISC System/6000. It is a series of computers which IBM manufacturers. This series ranges from notebooks to mainframe sized systems. Its architecture was originally targeted for technical opportunities like numerically intensive applications but it was found to work equally well for commercial type applications. It has an open type of architecture and utilises a unix-based operating system.



A site dedicated to a Big Blue system.

The site contains simply oodles of information, links and many third-party solutions. There is also a list of employment related opportunities within the field of the RS/6000 system, including positions at IBM.

Anyone with an interest in systems should visit this site, whether for commercial applications — or simply to look for a very high-paid job in the US (if you've at least one degree in computing and a knowledge of unix).

A very well designed site, with nice use of Image Maps and graphic links.

If you use the RS/6000 system, then this site is probably one that you should bookmark, if you're looking for a system, then maybe you should have a look at this site first...

Address: http://www.s6000.com/Welcome.html

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

The Major Players

Apple Computers

As far as systems go, if you're looking for a professional solution, then they don't come much bigger than Apple! Always up-to-date, this is a good site to get system updates and the latest Control Panels and the like.

Address: http://www.apple.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Compaq

The largest manufacturer of computers in the world, Compaq are considered the market leaders in laptops and hand-helds. A brilliantly designed site. But then, I would say that, because I've got a Compaq!

Address: http://www.compaq.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

IBM

Big Blue have been going a long time and they are still the best in the world at some kinds of system and solution. Nice site, with variations for different browsers.

Address: http://www.ibm.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Acorn Computers

Who could ever forget the BBC model B? A home computer which still exists in many schools and educational centres today. The site includes job opportunities for people who don't want to go across the Pond to work with computers.

Address: http://www.acorn.co.uk/acorn/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Hewlett Packard

Another British company which has become a market leader in certain areas; notably ink-jet technology and other "personal media devices". A very nice site from another major player.

Address: http://www.hp.co.uk

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Microsoft

Always packed with the latest information about Microsoft products and, of course, the latest upgrades for *Internet Explorer*. A very good site, although it can be a bugger to navigate because it's so vast — worth a visit at any time for updates on Microsoft products

Address: http://www.microsoft.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Olivetti

A bit disappointing compared to the other major companies. This site holds a mirror up to itself and gazes adoringly into its own eyes, and for no real reason — It's not that well designed.

Address: http://www.olivetti.com

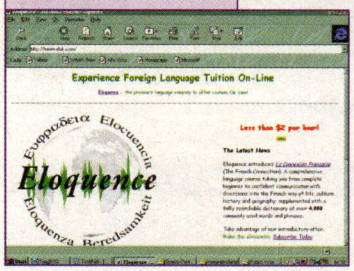
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Parlez Vous Le Web?

Another part of the Web that seems to be expanding apace is the educational side. With the emphasis on communication World-wide, Gary Joyce takes a look at resources for learning languages in cyberspace...

Eloquence

A very good site, with nice example lessons.



A very nicely designed Website, the newly developed Connexion Francaise is the major part of what's going on at *Eloquence*. Multi-media teaching methods mean that you can learn the language in whatever context works for you, whether in a school environment or as a home user with an eye to travelling abroad.

The sample lesson is very well laid out and as an example of the course structure, is well designed with teaching in mind. I must say that I was very disappointed that the site designers hadn't made better use of streaming sound, the sound examples were .au files, which are very large when compared to other types of file and therefore take longer to download.

I was impressed with the standard of the site and found that there was very little to criticise and much to praise.

If you're looking for French lessons and have a little money to spare, then this site is as good a place to start as any.

Address: http://www.elok.com/

Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇

Global Business and Language Associates

Created as a non-profit educational and membership organisation, *Global Business and Language Associates* state their aims as 'commitment to promoting cooperation and understanding in international business and people'. About themselves they say, "We are unlike any other international educational services organisation in that we have remained true to the basic principals upon which true cultural understanding is realised, while utilising the very latest information, technology and training methods available."

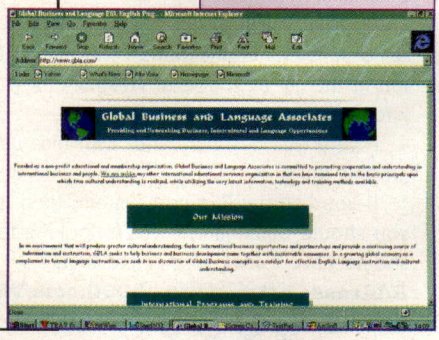
Whilst all that is very laudable, from what I can see from their site, this basically means teaching all those 'foreign buggers' how to speak English — which is not consistent with their aims as far as I'm concerned...

If you really want to understand someone, you have to learn their culture and language — not teach them that yours is better!

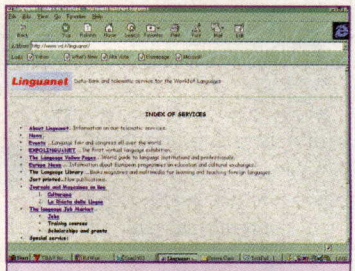
Address: http://www.gbla.com/

Rating: £ £ ◇ ◇ ◇

Teach Johnny foreigner to speak proper, like what I do...



Linguanet



Parlez vous Francais mes amis?

Linguanet is a multilingual data-bank, with all instructions presented in English. The main European languages are supported on some pages, so speakers of French, Italian, Spanish and German aren't left out in the cold...

With over fifteen sub-categories, including teaching, schools, publishing companies and so on, included in the database, it is a comprehensive resource of the five main European languages.

As an Italian maintained site, some of the headings are sometimes a bit confusing but since most of the content is English, navigation is still easy enough to cope with.

A very well designed site, the navigation is particularly simple, although, correspondingly, so is the design. This does not detract, however, from the massive store of information contained here.

If you're looking for some useful resources in any of these major European languages, then you probably won't find a better site to work from.

Address: http://www.vol.it/linguanet/

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Applied Linguistics Virtual Library

As the name implies, this is yet another of the many Virtual Libraries of links which have infested the Web over the last few years. I know that listings services are a valuable resource but sometimes when you're searching for something, it seems that all you find are lists of links that lead to other lists of links, and so on and so forth... Until you come to the end of the line, only to be informed that the site you're looking for was taken off-line six months ago!

There, that's my rant over for the while, and so onto this site.

By the look of the update times, the Webmaster here tests links every six months or so and updates on that sort of basis, which is fair enough on a resource such as this, since the educational sites are pretty static in terms of availability and information.

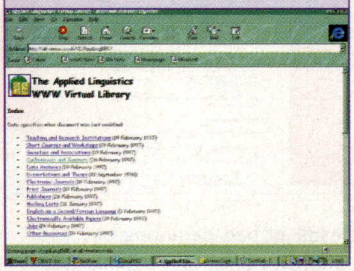
The few links I tried all worked, both internally and externally, so I was pleased with that and the information available seems to be a pretty comprehensive guide to what's available in the area of linguistics on the Web.

If you're searching for archived papers or other linguistics resources, then this would be a good starting point.

Address: **http://alt.venus.co.uk/VL/AppLingBBK/**

Rating: £ £ £ ◇ ◇

Linguistic resources of all kinds can be found at the A L Virtual Library.



Centre for the Advancement of Language Learning

A very comprehensive language search engine

CALL is basically a search engine for finding language-linked resources on the Web and from the couple of languages I tried, it's a pretty comprehensive one too...

When you select a language from the scroll bar, you are taken to its 'homepage', where there is a list of links relating to that language. From fonts (for the Cyrillic languages) to newspapers, language lessons and 'socio-cultural' (their words, not mine) items, this really is a resource to advance the learning of languages and to help people from around the world get to understand one another a bit better.

This is obviously an American site, since there are four variations on Spanish — of which the European language seems to be the least important to the site authors.

The last update on, for example, Slovenian, was mid-March, so the site is well maintained and kept up-to-date with the very latest that's available on the Web.

Go there if you want to find something in a specific language!

Address: **http://www.call.gov/**

Rating: £ £ £ £ ◇

Broken English

BBC English

A wonderful site, taking online the work of the BBC World Service. Includes *Real Audio* transcriptions of broadcasts from around the world. Quite brilliant.

Address: **http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/BBC_English/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Chat Room In Broken English

Billed as a chat room for people whose second language is English or for people who don't spell well, at the time I tried it was full of Americans. OK, they spell appallingly but I hardly think they can be described as speaking Broken English!

Address: **http://www.cup.com/bm7/cribe.htm**

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Cutting Edge CALL Resources

With *Shockwave* lessons, this is great fun — I particularly enjoyed putting the Orange on the table, although for sheer pleasure, nothing could quite compare to putting the orange *behind* the Sun!

Address: **http://www.chorus.cycor.ca/Duber/m004d.html**

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

English Direct

A resource for teachers of English as a foreign language, this may not be relevant to many people but it's a well designed site and easy to use.

Address: **http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/English_Direct/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Impact Online

A mailing list and database for Illinois, this site is basically an online newsletter, which will be of interest to any teachers of EFL.

Address: **http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/impact/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

La Fete '97

A Canadian site, well designed with lovely use of animated GIFs and sound files. Worth visiting by any teacher of French or English, or any student.

Address: **http://www.lafete.org/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Steve's ESL Heaven

A site by a Quebec Canadian, this site is for teachers and students of English. Well designed and laid out, this is another excellent resource.

Address: **http://ww.total.net/~smagl/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Plenty of sites for everyone this month — women, children, Net newbies and everything else in between! Paul Bartlett whips out his trusty modem and checks out the latest and greatest.

Another month, another New People section. This month has produced many, many new sites, a prime example of which is our site of the month, which is one the best we've had in a while. Oh, and we're all going to die in a nuclear holocaust. So read on, dearest reader, and find the best and worst that the Web has to offer this month.

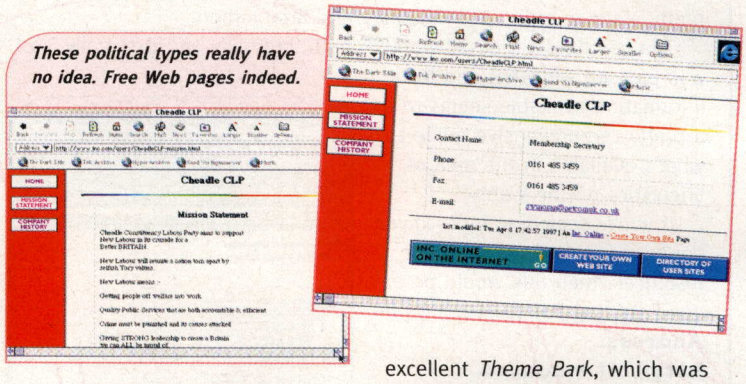
Hyperactivity Disorder

Learn more about this unfortunate condition.

One problem which can affect people today is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. It affects around 1% of children and can make them hyperactive or spaced out. This page is rather good — but for the fact that it is covered in advertising. Okay, so it's not commercial advertising (it's link exchange stuff) but it gets on my nerves. You must click through at least four pages of nothing but adverts before you can get to the proper page and even then there are ads everywhere. Not good. But the information provided is very good and there is a lot of it.

They try to spread awareness of the condition (which is a malfunction of the brain, not a result of bad parenting or whatever else) and I think they deserve a look. But turn images off. Point your browser at **http://members.tripod.com/~Olltwit/ADD.HTM.**

These political types really have no idea. Free Web pages indeed.

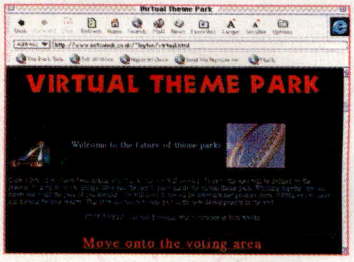


By the time you read this, the Election will have been and gone but recently opened to the public is the Cheadle Constituency Labour Party site, which is a fairly abysmal attempt at a homepage.

It was created using one of those awful 'create your own site' engines, which simple allow you to input your data and then sit back as the machine creates your HTML and gives you an URL. This method leaves a lot to be desired and is only suitable for the most simple of homepages — luckily, the Cheadle Constituency Labour candidate isn't bothered much by the looks of things. Maybe they should look into alternate methods — such as paying a tenner and getting a decent site. I'd hope he doesn't have this URL **(http://www.inc.com/users/CheadleCLP.html)** on his business cards.

Better than Life

If you're a gaming boffin, chances are that you have played the excellent *Theme Park*, which was available on all major platforms. Well now there's a *Virtual Theme Park*, which allows you to save yourself the gut-wrenching fear of real theme park rides and yet still... do whatever else you do at theme parks. It is to be made up from Java and VRML (and suchlike) but at the moment the park is still severely under construction. At the moment, they are accepting votes on the names and you can marvel at an animated Gif of a roller coaster ride. You never know, this could become a very impressive site, given time. Useless but surely impressive. If you fancy being taken for a ride, then the URL is **http://www.netcomuk.co.uk/~leyton/virtual.html.**



On the off-chance that you happen to be a woman In Denver (the place, not the John) then maybe *Women of Denver* **(http://www.womenofdenver.com/)** will appeal to you. Actually, *WOD*

Women of Denver.com

The Untamed Animal

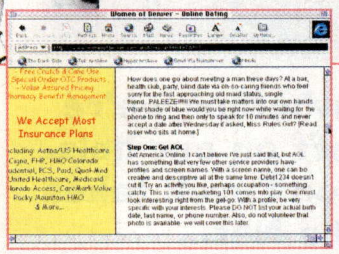
Women's Guide to Hockey

Online Dating

Create a Dreamhome ...

Bright Beginnings

Real Life - Real News



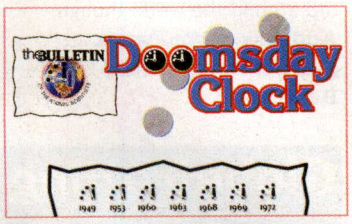
It's even worse than it looks. And that's saying something.

is touted as a magazine for women everywhere, so the living in Denver bit is optional. Actually, I wouldn't force this pile of dung on anybody, let alone a woman of Denver. The first article that I read was about online dating. The lady writing the article tells us (or women anyway) to 'Get AOL'. This, she says, is the best way of meeting people online. Oh dear, oh dear. Things are looking bleak for *WOD*.

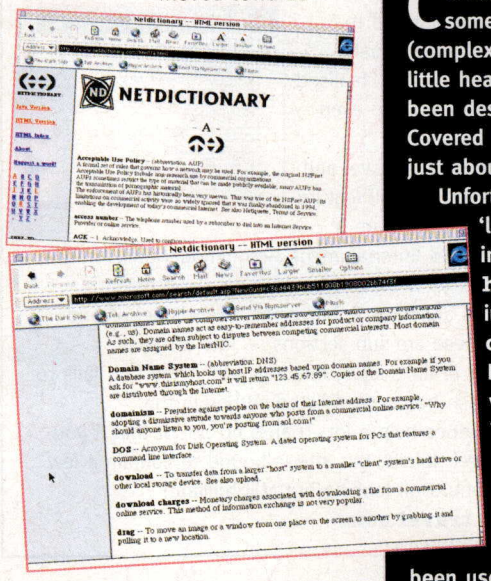
Her stupid rules and regulations when it comes to meeting people on the Net are fairly pathetic, as is this entire site. That is, unless you want to read 'A woman's guide to hockey' or some other article verging on the brain-dead. Avoid this site like the plague.

We're Doomed Mr Mainwaring!

Speaking of death and holocausts (notice my very weak link to the next review, there) the Atomic Clock homepage is now around to scare the willies out of you. Although not exactly new, (it was started in the mid 1950s) the Atomic Clock **(http://204.149.104.2/atomic/clock.html)** on



the Web is somewhat newer. It has long been the symbol of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and the minute hand is always poised somewhere before 12:00, which signifies the end of the world. Whenever nuclear devastation appears to me more likely, the hands of the clock are moved towards



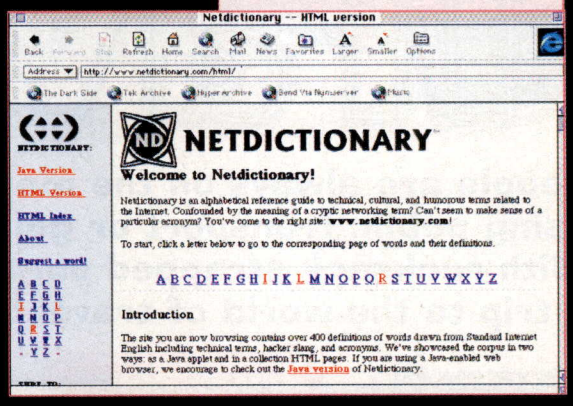
the 12... and when things are starting to look good, the hand is moved back again. It is currently at 14 minutes to midnight. It has been moved 14 times in the past fifty years and these people really know their stuff. Are we getting paranoid at the millennium draws to a close? There is talk of huge comets smashing the Earth to rubble (the massive Hale Bopp comet having scared the living daylights out of many poor astronomers, after barely having missed the Earth) nuclear holocaust, religious retribution, and zombie apocalypse (I made the last one up, by the way). Oh well. You can decide for yourself. This page is cool.

SITE OF THE MONTH

Net Dictionary

http://www.netdictionary.com/html/

One day all these terms will be in the real dictionaries, I expect.

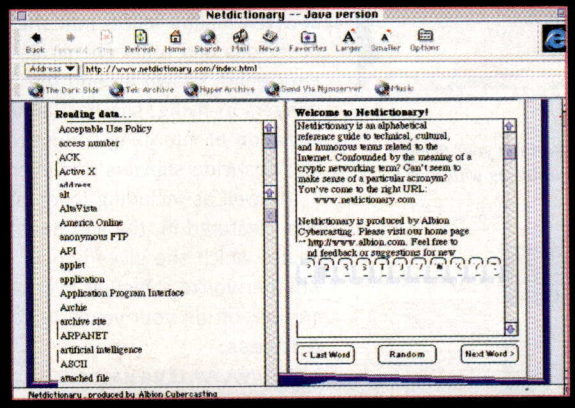


Confused? Lost? Thick? Don't worry, we all get lost sometimes, what with all these cmplx abbrvs (complex abbreviations — ha!). Well worry your sweet little head no more, because the *Net Dictionary* has been designed to aid you with your language problems. Covered here is hacker jargon, network terminology and just about everything else imaginable.

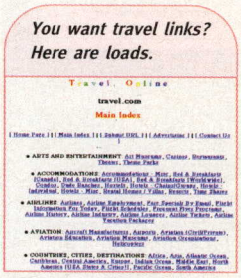
Unfortunately, due to what can only be described as 'lameness', they have set it up rather strangely, in that you have to access the site via **http://www.netdictionary.com/html/**, instead of just **http://www.netdictionary.com** (which is the fairly pitiful Java version). But apart from that, this has the makings of a very good site.

The main problem is the quite stupid lack of a search engine, and the speed at which pages are delivered — quite slowly. However, this is still a top page if you are a beginner when it comes to the Net — I'm sure this would have been useful to me when I was a newbie (all those years ago).

The Java version (which you can use if you have a half-decent browser) is horrific, and not of the slightest bit of use to anyone. The HTML version though is excellent, and I would highly recommend it to any beginner.

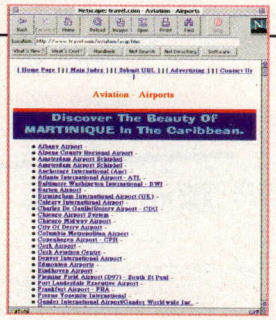


People are always on the move, whether we're using public transport or going off on our hols. With rucksack strapped on, Simon Lovell takes a trip to the world of travel on the Net...



You want travel links? Here are loads.

Travel.com



When I saw all of the links at *travel.com* I expected them to just lead off to other sites on the Web but after actually moving around (the site, obviously) I realised that in fact, all of these were links to even more pages — full of links!

Think of something related to travel and it's almost certain that *travel.com* will feature it somewhere in its directory. There are a total of 12 core areas; Arts and Entertainment, Accommodations, Airlines, Aviation, Countries — Cities — Destinations, Cruising, Government, Ground Transportation, Mall, Media & Publications, Miscellaneous and Outdoors. Under each of these are sub sections — lots of them! Unfortunately, as with a lot of links sites, this is another one that fails to provide a description of each home page listed. Although the organisation of *travel.com* does help a lot. There's no doubt that if you are out for any sort of travel details, this site is bound to contain a few pages which will interest you. Dull looking but still brilliant!

Address: **http://www.travel.com/**

Rating:

Sort out your flying problems with Diana.

Healthy Flying With Diana Fairchild

Does even the thought of getting airborne make you want to be sick? Worry no longer, because the Claire Rainer of flying is on the Web to help you through it. As a flight attendant, Diana Fairchild flew ten million miles until she became ill due to the exposure from pesticides and other chemicals on board commercial aircraft. Now after being known around the States for alerting passengers to the dangers of flying, she has launched her own Internet site with the intention of informing surfers of how to avoid problems such as jet lag, pesticide showers and even airline food!

As well as including loads of quotes from journals that Diana has been featured in, the site does make for an interesting read and the advice which she gives is only going to do you some good — whether you're a regular flyer or are just off on your yearly holiday.

Address:
http://www.flyana.com/

Rating:

Globetrotting

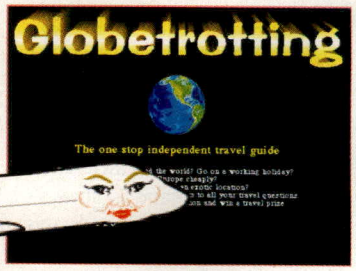
Do you want to travel around the world? This site will help you to.

Subconsciously, we all think that we are unable to do something in life. And for most of the population, travelling around the world would be one of them. But who can blame us? This is one of the many subjects that the UK based *Globetrotting* page looks at. They say that you don't need to be a lottery winner, "what you do need is a few ideas, a goal or purpose to the trip — and bags of enthusiasm".

Globetrotting also takes a look at three other areas; Euro breaks, backpacking and working holidays and the people behind it have really gone to town with the text side of things — you'll be lucky to get through all the info in a couple of hours! Before entering *Around the World*, you can even select between frames or no frames. When I hitchhiked to the site, they were giving away copies of a book away as competition prizes. So, depending on when you manage to visit, other new promotions could be happening. I wouldn't get your hopes up on a trip around the world though!

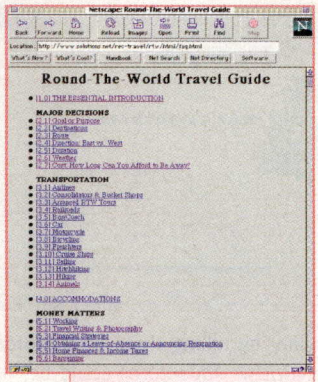
Address: **http://www.globetrotting.co.uk/**

Rating:



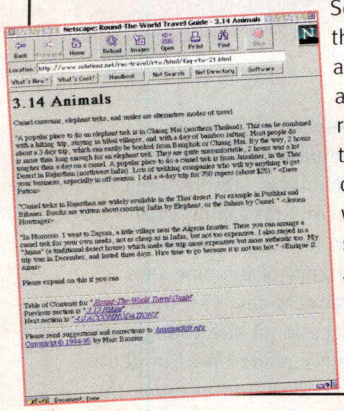
Round-The-World Travel Guide

Most of the time, if a site fails to incorporate any photos, background colours or it seems that in general, no effort has been put it to the design, it would not receive a favourable review. I felt differently about this travel guide though. Yes, the *Round-The-World Travel Guide* page is grey and there are no photos but this is outweighed by the amount of text which has been brilliantly divided up into various areas. You will find everything you need to know here, all the way from costs through to transport, weather and health matters.



Dull looking but brilliantly organised.

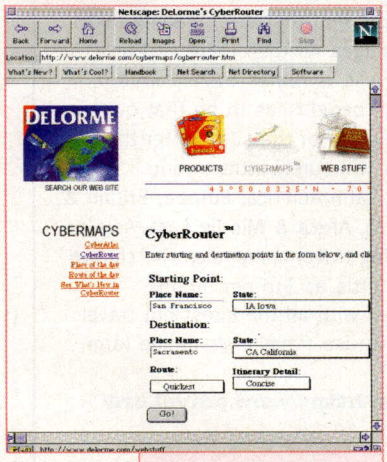
Some sections in the guide are massive and include pages and pages of text, where others just offer a few words and some names of books relevant to the topic. You would think that with the amount of data, there ought to be a link to download the whole file instead of each page but it seems that this was not thought of.



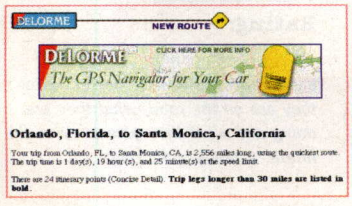
Address:
http://www.solutions.net/rec-travel/rtw/html/faq.html
Rating:

DeLorme's CyberRouter

Unfortunately, unless you live in the United States, or are planning a holiday over there, *DeLorme's CyberRouter* will be pretty useless. The reason for this is that the site can work out the distance and time for travelling between two points of the US. Simply use the drop-down bars to select a state, enter into a field the more detailed area and then press on the 'Go!' button to submit your request. Then, as long as you have input the correct information, another screen will appear with the details, such as how long it will take to get there and the amount of miles involved. You are even shown way points. If you do happen to type in the wrong name or select the wrong state, then a detailed screen will appear, allowing you to rectify your mistake. You are meant to be able to view different maps but these didn't work for me at the time of my visit.



Find out how long it takes to get from one state to the other.



Address:
http://www.delorme.com/cybermaps/cyberrouter.htm
Rating:

Flights

Flight Connection

This company specialises in flights to the Caribbean and USA. The site is pretty basic — just select an area and a page will appear with cost details. You are unable to purchase tickets online.

Address: http://www.flightconnection.co.uk/
Rating:

Airwise

This is a brilliant guide to airports all around the world. From parking details to duty free and terminal details. Although not massive, *Airwise* is well worth checking out if you are about to go off on your hols.

Address: http://www.airwise.com/Navigate/front_page.html
Rating:

Air Travel Pro

This is a daily arrival/departure plane guide. Enter the flight number to be told all the information you need to know. The site also features quite a few travel links.

Address:
http://www.dfw.net/~morris/index.html
Rating:

London-Luton Airport

Flying from London-Luton? If so, then you might want to know about the various ways to get there. There's also a list of facilities and a 'Latest News' section. Pretty good for what it is.

Address: http://www.london-luton.com/
Rating:

Air UK

Looking for a flight leaving from the UK? If so then Air UK can help. Their page includes special offers and it's even possible to book your flights online — via secure browser obviously!

Address: http://www.airuk.co.uk/
Rating:

British Airways Global Home Page

As expected, British Airways' page is nothing less than brilliant. Fairly quick to load, good page link system and plenty of flight details.

Address: http://www.british-airways.com/
Rating:

Delta Air Lines

My only moan over this site was when it came to downloading pages — it's pretty slow. Otherwise, loads of useful information from this massive company.

Address: http://www.delta-air.com/
Rating:

British Adventures

A guide really for those outside of the UK.

Even though this home page is run from the UK, it's actually been mainly created for those visiting from abroad. The aim is to show people visiting how to get around without joining a tour. If the small introduction doesn't bring this to your attention, then the English glossary section surely will. This is out to help foreigners expand their English vocabulary by telling them what words such as 'en-suite' and 'engaged' mean. *British Adventures* could be quite a lot bigger than it is at the moment. The massive glossary section is one of the main links along with the smaller 'What's on in Great Britain and Ireland' and 'The Story of British and Irish Money' sections. The usual Home, What's New and Contents links reside in a link bar located on each page to save you from using the 'Back' button on your browser. If you are new to the Web then the writers have also included a nice little 'tip' area for newcomers.

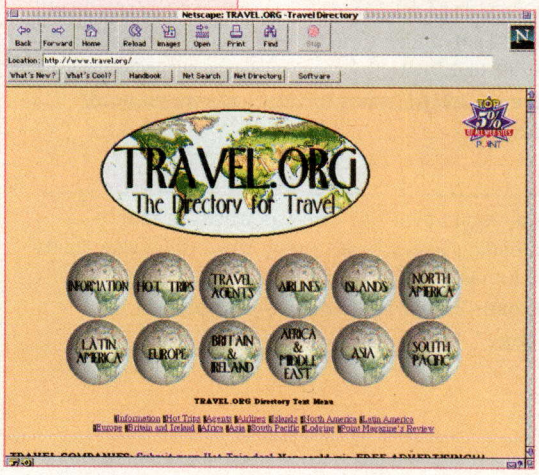
Address:
http://www.BritishAdventures.com/
Rating:

Travel.org — Travel Directory

If you have checked out *travel.com* then you will instantly notice that this links site looks a lot better but because images have been put into place to do this, you will find that downloading takes slightly longer (if you want to turn images off then there is a text list). Some sections of *travel.org* are just as big as *travel.com* but some only have a few links. The main benefit has to be that quite a few of the links include a brief description of the site. Better than nothing! One of the 12 main sections will surely attract you; Information, Hot Trips, Travel Agents, Latin America, Europe, Britain & Ireland, Airlines, Islands, North America, Africa & Middle East, Asia or South Pacific. *Travel.org* are also giving travel companies the chance to have their own home page for 'as little as $10 per month'.

If you want to be regularly updated with all the latest hot travel deals and new Web sites then you can use *travel.org*'s online form to be added to a mailing list.

Not a brilliant links site, but some of them should help you.



Address: http://www.travel.org/
Rating:

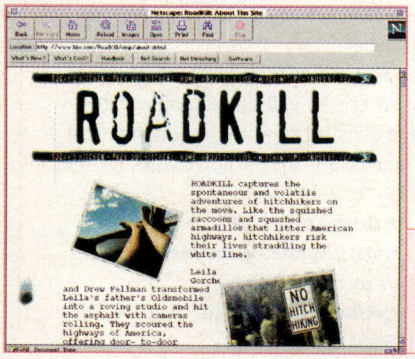
Roadkill

Based on a filmed documentary by Dew Fellman, *Roadkill* takes a close look on America's hitchhikers and is notably different from any of the other sites featured in this guide. Two people have

taken up the job of interviewing different hitchhikers, getting their reasons for taking to the road and learning about the dangers of jumping into a strangers car. It's not an educational site though. It's mainly made up of in-depth interviews and because the site is based around a film, selected movie files can be downloaded. Each day includes a new hitchhiker, plus you will find a archive of previous featured individuals. If you are planning to do it yourself then you may like to check out the 'Hitchin' Tips' area.

There's no doubt about it, the site is great to read and is visually impressive — but when there are so many images on the site that it takes an age to download, it gets a bit silly. Where plain text links could be used, the authors have used pictures and most of the site is made up of these. *Roadkill* also features some Java, so this may slow you down even more. If you have a 28.8K or 33.6K modem you should be able to bare it.

Address: http://www.hbo.com/RoadKill/
Rating:

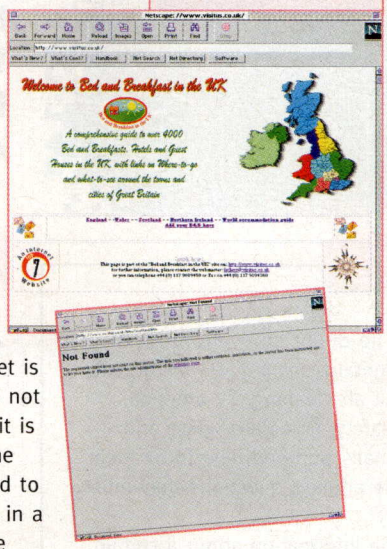


Read about various hitchhikers, why they are on the road, what they are doing and what they plan to do in the future. A pretty good page.

Bed & Breakfast in the UK

If you are travelling around the country from city to city, then you may want to plan ahead of yourself. There are quite a few similar sites to this on the Web but what attracted me to the link I found on another site for *Bed & Breakfast in the UK* was the claim of over 4000 listed. Saddened I was though, when I attempted to click on the UK image map to view some of these. There's either some kind of major problem — or the site is still under construction — but nothing works and the only page you get is one telling you that the page is not found on the server. Hopefully, it is still under construction but some signs should have been included to warn those visiting. Try the site in a couple of months and it may be working then — but until that time, don't even bother with it, you'll only be wasting time and money!

Hmm, why does nothing work here?

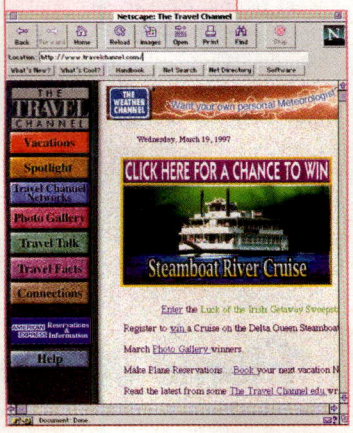


Address: http://www.visitus.co.uk/
Rating:

The Travel Channel

Visit the *Travel Channel* and you'll be anything but disappointed. First of all you'll notice the left hand bar which is full of a list of different internal pages ranging from Vacations to Spotlight and Connections. Admittedly, it's impossible for newcomers to know what these pages are all about until they're actually visited but that's just a minor let down (that can be easily fixed). The Photo Gallery not only includes loads of er, pictures but it also includes a photo contest, giving you the chance to submit your travel related photo. Winners receive ten rolls of film and this contest occurs each and every month. Vacations comprises of a searchable database of 26,000 sites, helping you to plan your next holiday (or vacation!) — although these weren't all checked for the obvious reasons. If you feel like chatting to others, bringing up different travel topics then sensible conferencing can be made through the Travel Channel forum. There is also a bulletin board in the same area.

Great looking site with bucket loads of info.



A brilliant site that captures the travel theme brilliantly and sets it ahead from any others here. 14.4K modem users may want to use the text-based index instead which can be found within the useful 'Help' page.

Address: http://www.travelchannel.com/
Rating:

Transport

Britrail International

Whether you're in the States, UK or Europe, the *Britrail* site should be of use to you. Information varies from price details to travel hints and a journey planning service. Use a frame capable browser.

Address: http://www.britrail.co.uk/
Rating:

American Limousine

Ever wanted to travel in style? Well if you're in the Chicago area, then why not hire a Limo to take you to Burger King? Only $160 per hour... for the cheap one! Good looking site but slim in content.

Address: http://www.americanlimousine.com/
Rating:

P&O European Ferries

Drift along to this site and you'll be swept off your feet by all of the information. From timetables to booking information and competitions. If you are thinking of travelling with the company then their site is ideal.

Address: http://www.poef.com/
Rating:

Dan Youra's On Line Ferry Travel Guide

Despite some of the pages here turning out to be external, if you are looking for prices, schedules, tour information or even a few photos, you won't go wrong here. Mostly American details though.

Address: http://www.youra.com/ferry_guide.html
Rating:

TBC

If you need rail or coach details then this site is basically on line to give you a 0891 number to dial. The single page is incredibly small and extremely dull. Not really worth loading up at all.

Address: http://www.nitehawk.com/iga/igatbc.html
Rating:

Speedlink

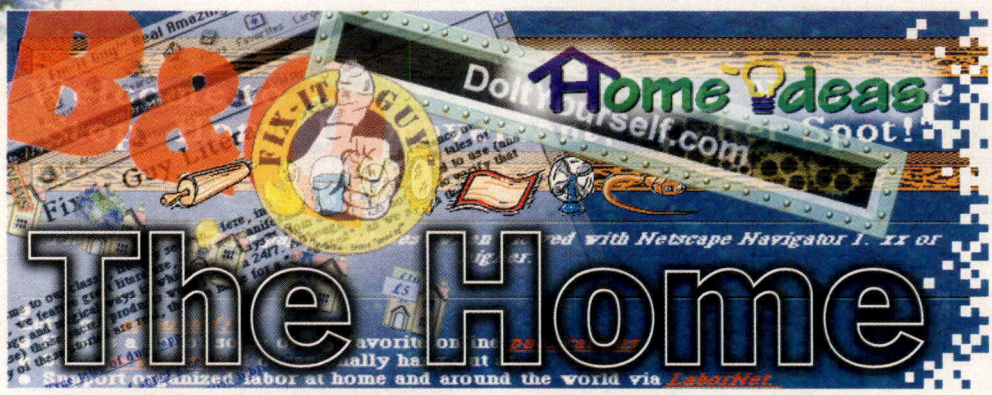
Offering a luxury coach service between London's airports, Speedlink's home page is anything far from luxury, although the relevant information is provided. Could do with looking a bit more interesting.

Address: http://www.speedlink.co.uk/
Rating:

Cab-Net

Believe it or not, you can actually use this site to book a London taxi. Using frames, there's also quite a bit of literature on taxis in general. Saves putting your hand out I suppose.

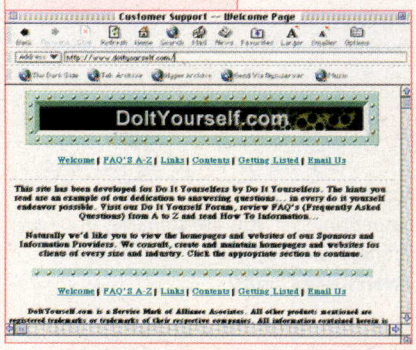
Address: http://www.taxi.demon.co.uk/
Rating:



Not really known as the DIY boy of Total Internet, Paul Bartlett hopes that the Web can turn him into an expert overnight.

DoltYourself.com

A great archive of some not so frequently asked questions.



Budding DIYers will no doubt be overjoyed with this site, since it contains many FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) about air cleaning, TV antenna, bronze, ceramics, fire safety, fibreglass, glass and 'Plaster board — why nails pop and how to fix them right'. I can imagine the endless questions they must get about that (hmmm).

If you need to get some information about a certain Do it Yourself task, this is the place and no mistake. All you need to do is log on for five seconds, quickly find what you want and print it out. It's a beginner's paradise and all of the questions that one may have to begin with, will almost certainly be answered here. You could make a whole flipping library out of all this stuff. It's free too — and supported by advertising (not much advertising there at the moment however). It needs a little bit of work on the graphics, which look as though they were lifted from a cheap clip-art CD but the presentation as a whole is pretty nice and the vast amount of information included makes it a worthwhile visit.

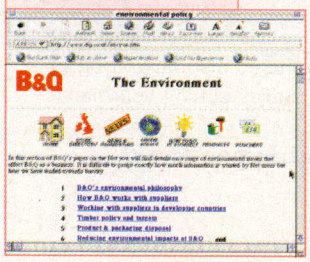
Address: http://www.doityourself.com

Rating:

B&Q

B&Q are one of the UK's biggest DIY chains, with 280 shops throughout the British Isles. They sell all manner of different DIY and gardening goods and their Web site has been around for a while now. It doesn't offer any means of buying products online but you get a directory telling you how to contact all of their stores. They also provide their Environmental Policy online, so the greener Web users can find out exactly how environmentally friendly they and their products are. They also have a rather large News page, which details their current special offers and so forth. The site in general is fairly well presented, although it can be a little plain looking. Still, regular DIY shoppers would do well to check back every now and again to check out the most recent special offers. Even that may not be such a good option though, because the site appears to be dated 1996. Time for them to get their act together? Or learn how to update the date with the rest of the page?

B&Q need to update a bit more regularly.



Address: http://www.diy.co.uk/

Rating:

Home Ideas

Need inspiration? You may find it here! I didn't though.

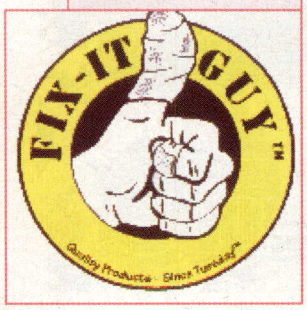
Okay, so you've got the inclination to do something with your home but you just haven't got any idea what. So what do you do? Well, this is certainly a good place to start. It features everything such as a discussion board and some applets to help you in design ideas for your home. You can also order some free product brochures and buy some stuff online. Yeah, it's a crafty way to make you splash out on their products but that's just the norm these days. The discussion board is quite good. There's plenty of good ideas, suggestions and questions here. Of course, you can add your own comments, answers, or questions to the board and see what people have to say. That's if postings with subjects such as 'Mouldy Windows' interest you. It's a good site. The graphics are good and the presentation is pretty neat too. It makes a change from boring shop sites. Take note B&Q people.

Address: http://www.homeideas.com/

Rating:

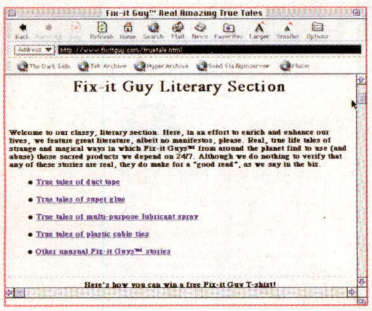
Fix It Guy

For our own technically inept readers.



Fix-it guy (fiks' it gi) n. [female definition] 1.) a loveable [sic] but occasionally [sic] inept (usually but not limited to) male, who thinks he is more capable than he really is.

If you've got a problem, then *Fix It Guy* may be able to help you out with some expert advice. A lot of DIY chaps have made a lot of mistakes in the past, see and now he hopes that his experiences may be able to help out those who are doing similar jobs and may well encounter the same problems. Not only that but many successes are also noted, such as strange uses for Superglue and lubricant spray (!). Their logo is a picture of someone doing the thumbs up, with a plaster on it, so you can see that the tone isn't exactly dead serious. There's also a poem of the month and other such silliness, but all they want you to do really is buy stuff from them. It has to be said that their site is much better than a lot of the other related sites out there (but that isn't necessarily saying much). It's one of the better sites (at least it has a sense of humour) and recommended to anyone who requires a bit of somewhat lighter reading.



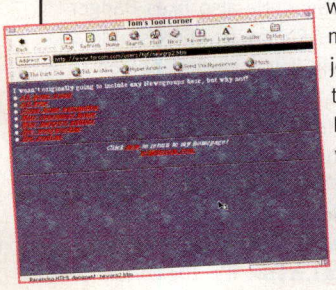
Address: http://www.fixitguy.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Tom's Tool Corner

Do we really want to see Tom's tool?

Tom tells us that his pages 'look best when viewed with *Netscape Navigator* 1. xx or higher'. Blimey Tom, bit behind the times there mate. Then again, his page was last updated in March of last year, unfortunately. Also, his page is made up of rubbish links, most of which probably expired over a year ago anyway. It's a shame that this garbage even exists, since it does little more than waste bandwidth. Some of the links are okay but they tend to be along the lines of sycophantic adverts for his ISP. He lists a couple of good Newsgroups (Alt.home.repair, Rec.woodworking and Rec.gardens) but since I just listed them, you'll have no need to ever visit this atrocious excuse for a homepage. If you're going to spend this little time on a page, then for goodness sake, don't get it listed on *Yahoo*. You're wasting people's time. Makes me think that maybe Tom is a bit of a 'tool' himself (only joking Tom). Oh and just to add the icing to the cake, he added a link to the National Rifle Association, urging people to 'Preserve your constitutional right to bear arms'. Dear, oh dear...



Address:
http://www.tsrcom.com/users/tgf/

Rating: ◇◇◇◇◇

Gardening

Internet Garden

A smart UK gardening site for the beginner or expert. Mostly just links — but very comprehensive and regularly updated. A must visit for the UK gardener.

Address:
http://www.internetgarden.co.uk/index.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

An English Country Garden

Another English page, written by the owner of some gardens in Netherbury, Dorset. With details of all her plants and a few recipes too.

Address: http://www.alfresco.demon.co.uk/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Just a Patch of Ground

Luckily, this site does contain a little more than just a patch of ground. It contains loads of information from a keen gardener, who likes to keep people updated as to the garden's progress. And very nice it is too. Coolish animated gif!

Address: http://www.palantir.co.uk/gar.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Sherry's Greenhouse

You can tell this one is American from the start — but it does contain a lot of detailed information about greenhouses and the plants you can keep in them.

Address: http://www.teleport.com/~earth/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Gardening.com

Well this is certainly a big site. It contains everything — a Yellow Pages, a forum and loads of up to the minute gardening articles. One of the biggest gardening sites on the Web and probably rather popular with the gardening community on the Net.

Address: http://gardening.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

Lindley's No Problem Garden

Apparently, just as there are "no bad dogs", there is also no such thing as a problem garden, you just have to know what to do with it. That's all very well but a garden doesn't jump up and bite your nose off though, does it, smarty pants?

Address: http://www.netusa1.net/~lindley/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Back in the Yard

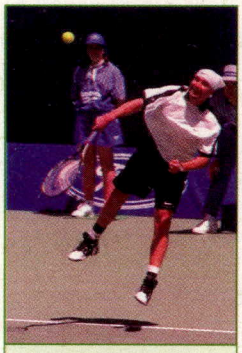
Just what is happening in Mike's Garden? And who cares? Well, Mike does, since he's put up this shrine like page in honour of his charming garden. Shame nobody else does! Ho, ho, only joking Mike. Or am I?

Address:
http://www.acs.oakland.edu/~mjthomas/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

This Sporting Life

It's issue six and sports sites are still constantly arriving. And as always, Simon Lovell is out there to see what's new and happening — sport-side...



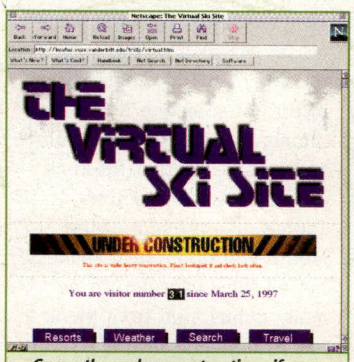
Amongst the usual collection of soccer sites, Tennis makes an entry this month!

It's been one of those months folks. You wouldn't believe how busy it's been on the sport side of the Net and with so many pages appearing, it has made my job this time around a lot easier! You may have already noticed that there are quite a few more URLs than previous months — perhaps a promising sign for future collections?

The battle between us over here in the UK and the Americans has certainly been at boiling point this month and I'm glad to say that the amount of new English sports pages has really been phenomenal, which should and hopefully will continue.

Football Crazy

It's hardly surprising that with so many new UK pages coming to light, that football would come into the equation somewhere along the line. Several English teams have brought themselves to created their own pages, the first of which is a fan page based around the Tranmere Rovers. At **http://www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Marina/3487/TRFC.html** you can read latest match reports, find out the latest gossip as well as learning about forthcoming fixtures. As long as the author keeps up to his updating responsibilities, there's no reason why any Tranmere fan shouldn't bookmark this page.



Currently under construction, if you like taking to the slopes then the Virtual Ski Site *will be for you.*

Watford fans can now look forward to visiting **http://www.demon.co.uk/ittrain/watford.html** for the brilliant *WatfordWeb Home Page*. This is not only brilliantly presented, but also packed full of latest club details. Amazing really, seeing as it's not even official! Another personal page I found was all about Yeovil Town FC, **http://www.ktl.cix.co.uk/ytfc/**. It's well presented and I was surprised to find hordes of great information.

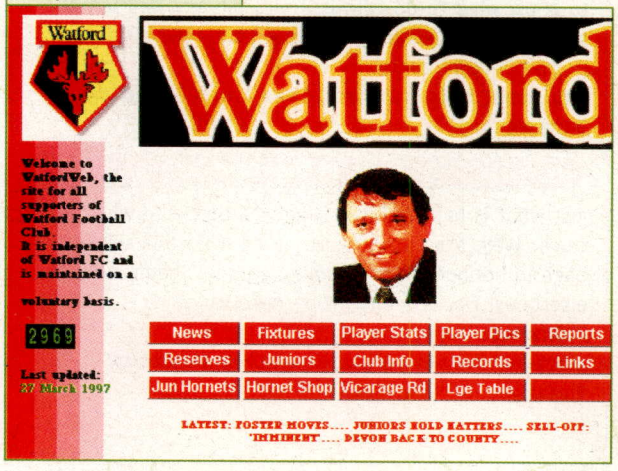
An even smaller club named Albion Boys FC **(http://members.tripod.com/~NHillman/index.html)** is also now online and with only 59 hits (when I visited) so far, they could do with a few more supporters. It's not big at all, with just a history of the team, some player details and links. Still, it's nice to see that smaller clubs are at least trying something different to promote themselves.

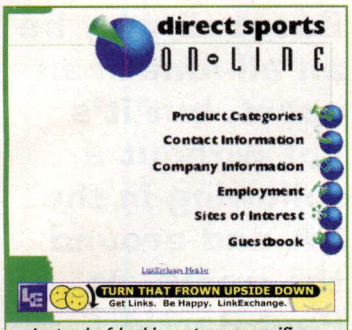
State Side

I was really disappointed with the lack of American sport pages this month. Most new ones were all about hockey, which has been covered in previous issues already. I did however come across a few that didn't revolve around the mad sport. One of these was *Razzberry's Racin' Page* **(http://www.angelfire.com/wi/racin/)**. It's very new but also very dire. There's just a load of text and then some links to the author's friends who also have Net pages. He also likes Badger Midget Racing (?) There's a small prize in it for the first person to email me with the full description of what it is.

I did manage to come across a fairly good skiing site which can be located at **http://locutus.vuse.vanderbilt.edu/trills/virtual.htm**. It's *The Virtual Ski*

Watford football club — now they've got their very own Web site.





Instead of looking at one specific sport, this site looks at lots of them.

Site and is currently under construction. You will be able to find out about resorts all over the States, as well as learning about conditions. That's it.

Out USA, in UK!

Sticking with UK based pages and *Direct Sports* are the latest company to bring themselves online with their site at funnily enough **http://www.directsports.co.uk.** At the moment, the only products available are soccer jerseys but the site should grow in the near future and hopefully an online ordering service will be brought into effect.

If you like your adrenaline to be pumping... downhill, then Tom Powis from Hereford has decided to share his interest of downhill mountain biking **(http://members.aol.com/odog666/mtb/downhill.html)** with other fans from all around the world. As well as some great GIFs of his favourite bikes you will also find some really impressive action shots and links to related biking pages.

Everyone likes action photos, and what better place to visit for Tennis snaps than *Advantage Tennis* **(http://www.advantage-tennis.com/index.htm).** Both male and female tennis players are covered here and for each there are four to five images. As usual, it's a case of clicking on the smaller thumbnail to get the full size image.

As predicted last month (just call me Meg) more F1 pages have driven in on the scene and I picked this one because it was created by someone in the UK.

At the *British F1 Fan Page* which can be found at **(http://subnet. virtual-pc.com/ ~du468630/)** you will find the latest results when a race has finished, plus driver profiles, a calendar, list of books, fan clubs and a special page dedicated to the "British Boys". It's very good, tidy and loads as fast as a ferret up a trouser leg.

Slightly slower — but all the more dirty — will be the cars who will be taking part in this year's Volkswagen Rally. This page **(http://www.maxcom.demon.co.uk/vwrally.htm)** is great, with driver info, team details and a few snaps to keep your desktops colourful.

And (just like the News at Ten) finally, if you prefer to bet on sports than take part in them then *Weekly Sports Betting Paper* page is err, pretty sad and boring... oh dear!

Enjoy the following pages, as we look at cricket, baseball and surfing — sport freaks!

SITE OF THE MONTH

Surfergirl Magazine

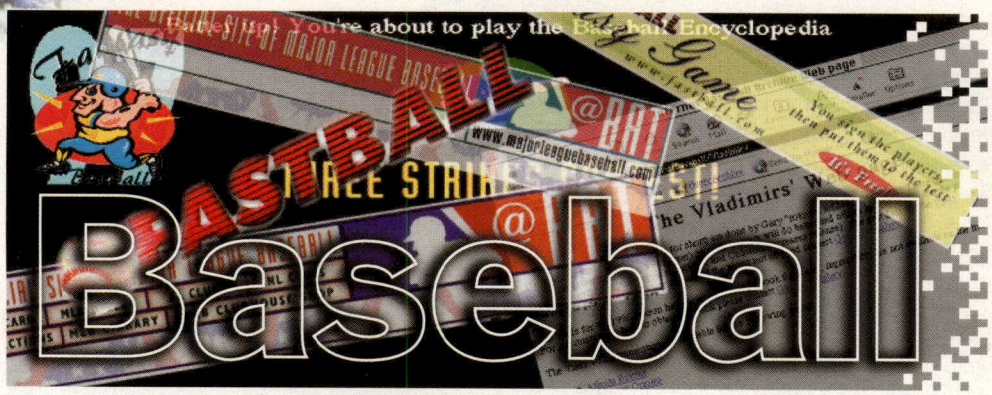
http://www.surfergirl.com/

If you believe that only men can take to the waves, then think again!

Chances are, if a man said to a women that they couldn't surf, a smack in the gob would be in order. And rightly so. Any men even thinking of saying such a thing should first take a look at this online surf magazine which is fantastic. Not only does it look great, feature loads of surfing news, features, and photos but it's got no sign of men in it whatsoever. I'm sure blokes all over the country will be rushing to it now, eh lads?

No, really, this is a great home page for anybody who wants be kept up to date with the latest details on how women are getting on in the sport. And of course, all of the editorial has been put together by a strong team of females. Yes, some of the management are male, but that's pretty much irrelevant.

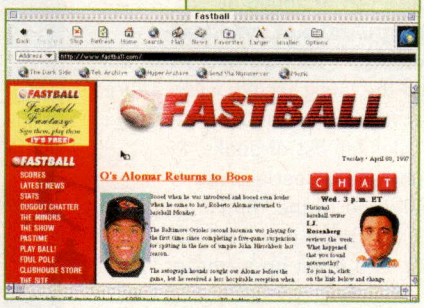
It's pretty new — only on issue three — but if you feel that you've missed out on something then fear not, each previous issue can be sourced in the archive. And these are in full, just like the current issue looks — there's no cutting it down to save space on the server. If you fancy sharing your thoughts with other surfers from around the world, then the Aloha Board link is for you. A major point that should be noted about *SurferGirl* magazine is that it hasn't arrived as a spin-off from a version on the shelves, so there's no pages egging you on to buy regular issues. A worthy surf if ever there was one.



Baseball may be an all-American sport, but it's not without a following in the UK and around the world, as Paul Bartlett found out!

Fastball

The latest news and views from Fastball.com



Fastball contains the latest, up to the minute baseball news, as well as other articles by various baseball commentators and critics. One quite nice feature is the applet on the main page, which updates you on the latest games, scores and whatnot. The graphics are quite impressive and the quality as a whole is very good. There is plenty of news concerning the Minors, the Majors — and whatever else they have in baseball. There is even a Fantasy game online which you can become a part of, should you be taken by such an idea.

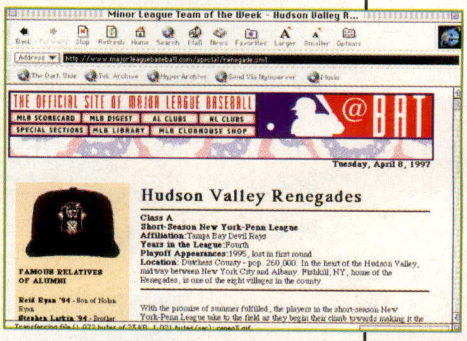
So, if hearing about the latest groinal strains and spitting-in-the-face-of-umpire antics sounds like your sort of scene, then *Fastball* is probably one of the very best sites of its type. If I did have any criticisms it's that the site is rendered too slow by the tons of graphics everywhere (and the applet) but to be honest they aren't that bad.

Address: http://www.fastball.com/

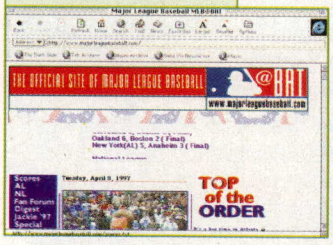
Rating:

Major League Baseball

More Major League fun and games here, with plenty of multimedia to boot. To be honest, it lacks the feel of *Fastball* but it too has an annoying Java ticker, to help you find out the latest information and it's also laid out in a strikingly similar manner. There are video clips and pictures, and also news articles, opinions and features. The main problem is with speed. I don't want to have to wait an hour for the video archive to load. It takes endless hours to download a page and most people won't be willing to waste their time on a site which is so slow. The speed is probably down to over-use or something but I'm sure that they could either upgrade their bandwidth or upgrade their machine (depending on where the problem lies). As it stands at the moment, this site is far to slow to warrant a visit.



This site would be cool, if it wasn't so slow!



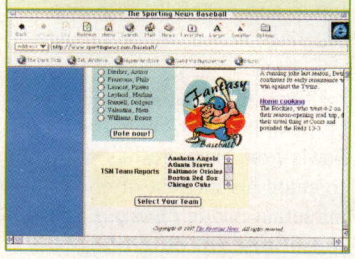
Address: http://www.majorleaguebaseball.com/

Rating:

Sporting News

These news sites just keep on coming. This one is another very similar site, in terms of both appearance and content. There are scores, standings, injuries, transactions, a fantasy league, the latest information concerning teams and players and the obligatory opinionated sections written by baseball experts. There are some thrilling articles on the American fans' strange habit of throwing souvenir baseballs at the players and each other (no, really) and just about everything else we've come to expect. There is so little difference between all these sites, it's really just a matter of personal preference. The graphics here are just about acceptable (some of the images have fairly obvious Jpeg flaws) but not quite up to the standard of *Fastball*. Still, the articles are what make the site and this one certainly has plenty of them in compensation. The problem is of course that the information is the same wherever you go...

News, views, and all that stuff.

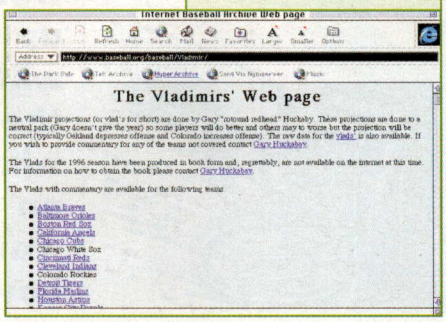


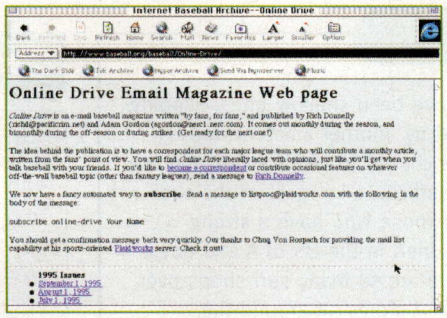
Address: http://www.sportingnews.com/baseball/

Rating:

Baseball.org

The name baseball.org *could be better-used.*





This site scores zero in terms of graphics — there aren't any. It's purely a text site, which is cool for those that access the Internet via their shell account. *Lynx* users can safely go here, unlike the other sites featured here. But would you want to go here even if you did have *Lynx*? Well maybe. There is an online magazine called *Online Drive*, which you can subscribe to (it's a listproc system) if you'd like to get some baseball related email. There are also all of the back issues online, so you can see whether you want to subscribe or not. This site scores highly on speed, which is probably due to the fact that it has no graphics. You can also access the site via the following address **http://www.baseball.org/baseball** but the address below will probably be somewhat more reliable.

Address: http://remarque.berkeley.edu/baseball/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

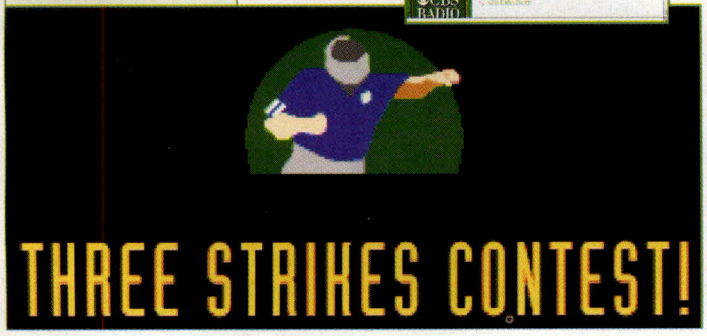
3 Strikes

If you'd like to test your knowledge of baseball, then this site may be the ideal place. *Three Strikes* is a baseball trivia quiz, which is totally free to enter. There are plenty of prizes to be won, which consist of the products created by Macmillan (yes, this site is a promotion for their own books and CD ROM titles). The prize value goes up to $100, although unfortunately those outside the US or Canada are not allowed to enter. Still, it would be OK to try and test out your baseball knowledge, even though if you do brilliantly you'll never actually manage to win anything. You have to register to start off with and then use your username and password from then on. A fun way to waste your time in between visits to *Fastball*, maybe.

Address: http://www.mcp.com/macdigital/baseball/3strks/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

This is animated and very nice it is too.



Minor Leagues

Rebel Baseball Review

These guys certainly think highly of themselves. They state at the top of their page "Nobody covers the independent leagues like we do. Nobody". Hard men! But hey, they charge $40 if you want to get 33 issues of their mag via email. Tch.

Address: http://members.aol.com/rebelbbrvw/index.html

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Baseball Minors

A top class site which details all of the latest minor league information. A very smart services from those top guys and girls at *Pathfinder.com*.

Address: http://pathfinder.com/si/news/baseball/minors/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Minor League Baseball

Argh, graphic overload. If your connection can withstand the rather large image which is displayed on the main page, then this site will serve as a very useful guide to the minor leagues.

Address: http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Baseball links

More baseball links than you could shake a stick at. Well, quite a few anyway, all grouped into the correct categories for you. A very good starting point for all baseball sites. No presentation whatsoever though, unfortunately.

Address: http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~jekint/more_baseball.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Down on the Farm

Get orf moi laaand! Actually nothing to do with farming, this guide to minor league baseball is a simplistic guide to scores and batting averages. Yawnsome.

Address: http://www.nando.net/SportServer/baseball/min.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Charlotte Rangers

Dull dull dull. Just lots of information about the team members and so forth, with one logo. Surely somebody could do better than this. Where are the video clips? Where's the *Real Audio*? What is the world coming to?

Address: http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com/teams/charlotte-fl/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

St Paul Saints

Hey, this is more like it! Excellent bandwidth-wasting graphics and whatnot. Loads and loads of links, articles, news and just about everything else. One of the best minor league baseball sites I came across on my travels.

Address: http://spsaints.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

What with the weather hotting up now, surfers will be taking to the sea. But what's available on the virtual waves. Simon Lovell finds out.

Secret Spot *offers a good surf shop list.*

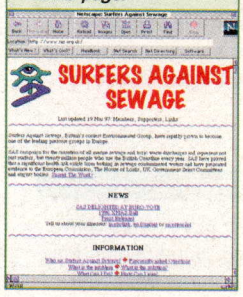
Secret Spot.com

My personal attempts at surfing have been shallow ones. Slipping off the board and being smacked by another amateur doesn't help! So, like most, when I do get the chance to visit Newquay in the summer, my worthy body board now suffices. Like most of the sites featured here, *Secret Spot* is really for those who have a strong interest in the sport. It is being maintained in the US of A and does have a few good areas. Seeing as there are so many surf shops over there, the site has a massive directory of stores all around the country which, even though only a phone number is provided, covers wide ground and is bound to be useful to some. One section which I thought would be good was unfortunately full of dead links. This was to the Surf Cam part, which should have featured live cameras from beaches all around the States. Because frames have been used, unless you know how to find out, you won't know that some of the links are actually to external pages. The *Surf Mag* link is a fine example of this. Apart from a few bad points, pretty good.

Address: http://www.secret-spot.com/

Rating:

Find out how to join SAS through their home page.



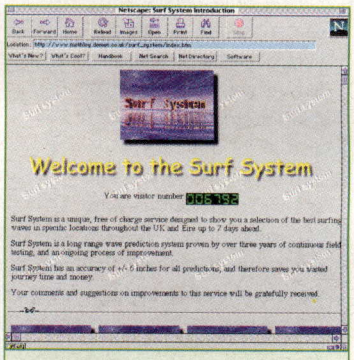
Surfers Against Sewage

Based in Cornwall, Surfers Against Sewage formed in May of 1990 and are now one of the leading pressure groups in Europe. Despite slightly dull design, everything you would expect is here and is easy to find. To start of the page, you will first find a short introduction, giving a brief description of who they are. If you want to find out more then a separate link goes into more detail. SAS are constantly on the look out for new members and there are benefits to this, including access to competitions. Pages tell you how to join and there are application forms for you to fill out and send off if you wish to part with your money. Don't worry, this isn't a money grabbing venture at all. Other areas tell you how to prevent causing ocean pollution and there are various photos, illustrating the problem that can so easily be prevented. A list of events can be found and, if you have your own home page, then the site encourages you to download one of their logos for use on your page.

Address: http://www.sas.org.uk/

Rating:

Surf System



What's the surf going to be like within the next seven days?

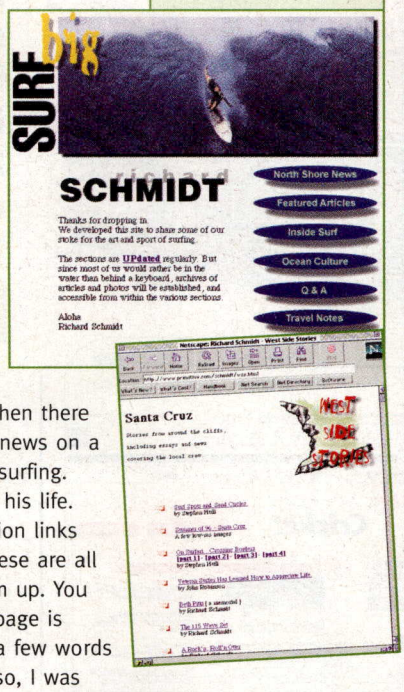
Are you going off surfing in the UK or Eire within the next seven days? If your answer is a surftastic yes, then *Surf System* could possibly help you find some of the better waves around the country. It suggests the best coasts to surf on, plus the recommended breaks and even temperatures are listed. The service is free and is bound to attract hordes of surfers, once the sun starts to boom down on beaches soon. Apart from the forecasts, there is nothing else here of interest. The creators would like you to fill out a questionnaire and some background details can be read but that's it. Because there isn't very much information (let's not forget that the data provided is very good) it's much easier to work your way around the pages and the limited number of logos also help the download times. A great service that should be bookmarked by all surfers in the United Kingdom and Eire.

Address: http://www.methley.demon.co.uk/surf_system/index.htm

Rating:

big SURF

For a surf site, there aren't many photos.



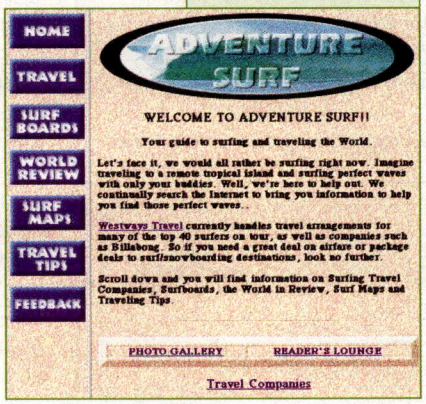
Although the design of *big SURF* is very good, it does look slightly commercial and too slick for a site that's meant to be about the wild sport of surfing. The majority of the pages will be interesting for anyone who is a fan of bashing the waves but a couple of sections will only really appeal to those in America, such as the Surf School. This gives details on private tuition in Santa Cruz. If you like to read, then there are plenty of stories, as well as news on a boy who had an accident while surfing. He's now in hospital fighting for his life. The main page holds many section links but it's very hard to tell what these are all about until actually loading them up. You could well find that Inside Surf page is completely useless to you. Just a few words would help visitors out a lot. Also, I was unable to find a picture gallery but there are photos scattered around.

Address: http://www.primitive.com/schmidt/

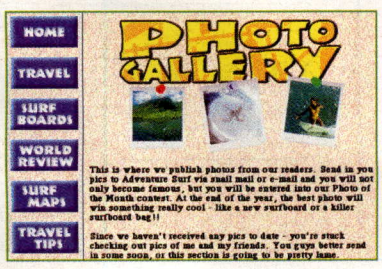
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Adventure Surf

If you want to take your board around the world, visit this page!



This site is aimed at those who — rather than popping down the local beach — prefer to travel around the globe, trying out different beaches instead of the same old one. The site isn't so massive that you get lost, nor is it so small that you would rather not look at it all. Made up of frames and six main sections (Travel, Surf Boards, World Review, Surf Maps, Travel Tips and Feedback) you will find information here that will help you make up your mind about where to go, as well information such as a list of various travel companies, airfares and surf outlets. There is an even mix here between internal and external pages, which is fair enough — you just might find a few links that don't work. Getting around is easy enough, although you may well find that not being able to use the 'Back' button on your browser gets extremely annoying after a while.



You are forced to click on 'Home' in the left hand frame. Another annoying part was that I unable to find any information on updates. Apart from that — strictly cushdy!

Address: http://www.advensurf.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Surf Shops

The Internet Surf Shop

It takes far too long to find what you're looking for here. Pages are terribly presented and there are no shots of the goods offered. I certainly didn't take this very seriously.

Address: http://www.isurf.com/

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Surf Shop

I was disappointed that none of the Surf Wear links worked here but everything else seemed in order. Nice looking, plenty of links but note that it's based abroad.

Address: http://www.surf-shop.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Big Yank Sports

You might not be able to order online, but this is a good example of how an online shop should be like, in terms of organisation and presentation anyway. Quick download times.

Address: http://www.BigYank.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Jack's Surfboards

A few photos of his California based shop and he thinks that's good enough. I don't think so pal. Let's see some content, eh?

Address: http://www.jacksurf.com/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Ron Jon Surf Shop

A very interesting page about the shop, that has been around since 1959. It's changed a lot since then. There are several items to order through the site, although buying online is not possible at the moment. Still, very slick.

Address: http://www.ronjons.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Killa Dana Surf Shop

Small, boring, dull sad — and those were just the first few words that sprung to mind after visiting this site for five minutes. The images are also all far too big and unnecessarily placed.

Address: http://killerdana.com/

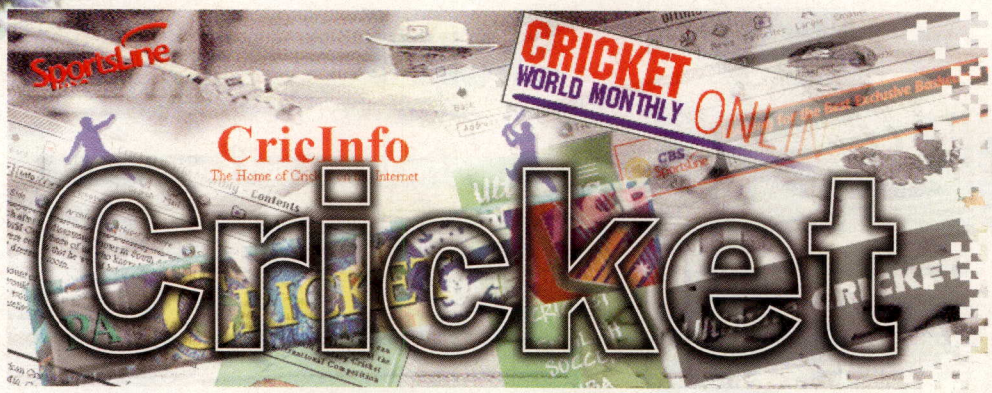
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Suncoast Surf Shop Online

By the time all of the photos loaded here, I could not be bothered to take a look at any other part of the site. Some of them were even black and white. I'm sure it's very good otherwise...

Address: http://home1.gte.net/aharsh/suncoast/index.htm

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

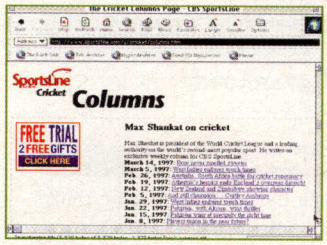


Cricket is very much an English tradition and — like it or not — it's here to stay. Paul Bartlett checks out the Web sites.

Sportsline

One of the best sporting sites out there!

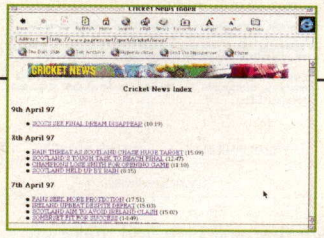
Sportsline is an excellent sporting resource for just about every sort of sport and the cricket site certainly doesn't let us down in terms of presentation or the content. It's all very well presented (like the rest of the site) and contains lots of photos and articles, so cricket fans can get up-to-the-minute coverage, unlike on the various fan sites provided, which are only updated once in a blue moon (generally that is). Not only is it up to the minute but it's also well written (if not exactly entertaining). Also available to visitors are the latest standings and scoreboards. Loading is very quick too, making this one of the best sites on the Web when it comes to finding out all manner of cricket related information. All of the latest Reuters and Allsport pictures are online too, so you can get your entire cricket fix online. This site is virtually flawless. A few more articles by fans might make it even better but at the moment it's just about as good as you're going to get.



Address: http://www.sportsline.com/u/cricket/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

P.A. Sport



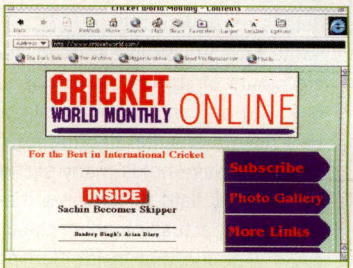
This site claims to have live coverage of the latest games, a claim which is pretty much lived up to. It is nowhere near as accessible as the excellent *Sportsline* site but it does have all of the vital information, and news is added VERY regularly — to the extent that they add the time that each article was added — and there are quite a few new ones put up almost every day, so checking back here every few hours will reveal whether or not your team has won any vital games, or whatever else you may be interested in. If you want to see a game being played in the flesh, as it were, then you can also get ticket information online, which is a big bonus. The site as a whole needs a little bit of work presentation wise but the graphics that are there are pretty clean and don't need that much work. It's not really as good as *Sportsline* but it does have some different information. A little bit of work and this would be outstanding. It's very good as it is, mind you.

Small graphics but very fast news updates.

Address: http://www.pa.press.net/sport/cricket/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

CricketWorld

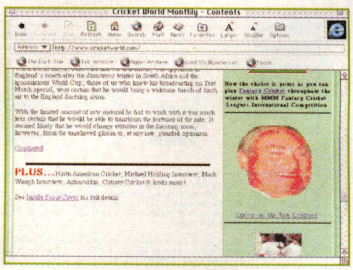


Cricket World Monthly Online *is an interesting insiders' magazine.*

Oh dear. First impressions aren't very good here, since it lacks class. It has a very amateurish feel to it, although we shouldn't suppose that every cricket site has staff working around the clock on it (like *Sportsline*). It appears to be a more fan-oriented project, although it does also have a commercialised feel to it. It does have a few more articles than most online sports magazines, including some slightly more opinionated features. This can only be a good thing, and it's just a shame that the images in general aren't very good — some are distorted, in the wrong resolution, or just generally pretty awful. With a bit of spit and polish this site could become a cracking bit of work. As it is, it's certainly not bad, and should be on any self-respecting cricket fan's bookmarks.

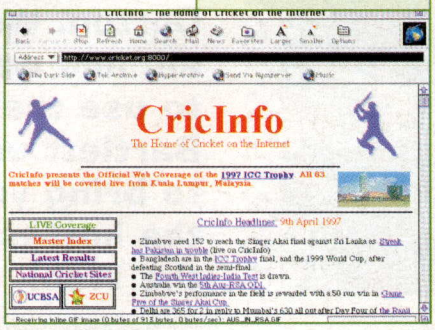
Address: http://www.cricketworld.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

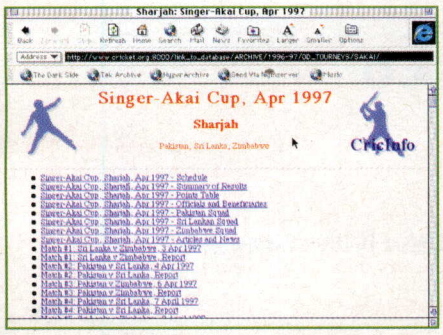


Cricket.org

Nicely done — and made in the UK too.



Claiming to be the 'home of Cricket on the Internet (which is quite a claim to have to live up to)', *Cricket.org* does a very good job in a number of respects. Many people have raved about the live scorecards the site offers, which are undoubtedly very useful to any cricket fan with Web access. There's certainly a lot of information here, in fact it's probably the most content-rich site here. The graphics aren't exactly fabulous, but I don't suppose that matters. It appears to be a UK site too, which earns extra points. Most cricket sites seem to be in either Australia or America. This is a site for someone who knows his or her cricket, make no mistake. Beginners to the sport are likely to get very lost. Still, top marks to the creators of Cricket.org I think. Live scorecards. Pretty cool.

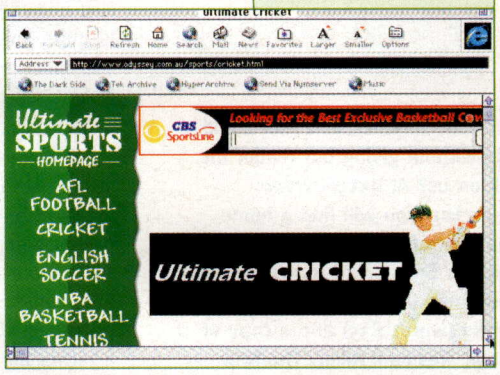


Address: http://www.cricket.org/

Rating:

Odyssey Cricket

Lots of pictures but little else unfortunately.



This is much more of a multimedia oriented site than the others, with more (or at least a little bit more accessible) pictures. The pictures vary from players and games to older events and so forth, there are certainly quite a few of them online. The quality of the images ranges a bit too but most of the pictures are pretty good, verging on the very good. Some look disturbingly like Video captures, but that's to be expected I suppose. This is probably an attempt to avoid using copyrighted photos, which they'd have to pay for if they used. And if that photo-action isn't enough for you, then there's a handful of decent links too. Hardly one of the most packed sites on Earth but we shouldn't complain. If you want a photo of a particular player or game (past or present), then this is the place to find it.

Address: http://www.odyssey.com.au/sports/cricket.html

Rating:

Clubs

Adelaide Cricket Club

The Adelaide Cricket Club (at Brighton) have a rather rubbish page containing a little bit of text and a few links. It's good humoured fun I suppose — but nothing to write home about.

Address: http://www.compulink.co.uk/~jupiter/adders.htm

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Belton Cricket Club

Belton's page leave a lot to be desired too. It's a standard sort of Web page really, with little to make it stand out from the rest. There are quite a few links but that's about it.

Address: http://www.netcom.co.uk/orgs/beltoncc/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Blackheath Wanderers Cricket Club

More bad graphics and zero design for the Blackheath Wanderers. It may be that one person does the homepage for every cricket club in England. That may explain why they're all so similar (and rubbish).

Address: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/wth/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Burwell Cricket Club

Wow, this one actually has half-decent graphics and some pretty good design. There are lots of different articles and news and this site comes highly recommended.

Address: http://www.btinternet.com/~strokemaker/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Corinthians Club

Back we go to the boring ugly pages... this one being for the Corinthians Cricket Club, in North Norfolk. It could be worse but it lacks the style of the previous page.

Address: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/CWils/CorClub.htm

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Felling Cricket Club

The Felling Cricket Club in Tyne and Wear has a pretty bad site too, with no graphics, a blood red background and no content worth mentioning. Dearie me.

Address: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/FellingCricket/

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Laser-Scan

Laser-Scan are a company team, which offers to take on any other company team in Cambridge. Not much better than most of the others but frighteningly enough, their captain is one Chris Evans.

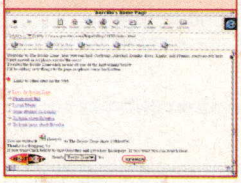
Address: http://www.lsl.co.uk/~cricket/

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Wired for fun

Clubs, cocktails, beer, Star Wars, and Dot Cotton. We have them all, and we aren't afraid to use them. Paul Bartlett uses the Force to bring you loads of the hottest new sites on the Web!

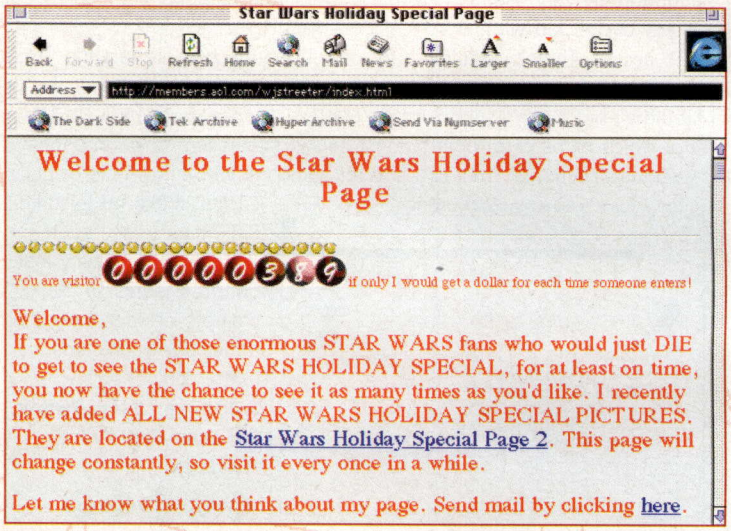
The Booze Zone — *For drunkards everywhere.*



Well, this month's attitude section has turned out very well. The Booze and Babes sections was no trouble, with me having spent all weekend closely 'examining' various poisons and Simon having spent his entire life examining various 'babes'. There are quite a few new sites too this month, as I discovered.

Star Wars Cocktail

Okay, so you might think that a site about Star Wars belongs in the Entertainment section — but this one is rather special, since it's about the tremendous Holiday Special, which, so far as I'm concerned, has major attitude. It was so bad, that once they had shown it on TV in 1978, it was never shown again or released on video. It never will be either, since George Lucas and co seem to have made moves to make sure that this atrocious film is forever hidden from the public. The only way you can get it is as a bootleg copy. Well, now there's a page on the Web where you can download pictures, sounds, and even the odd movie from this rarity. Unfortunately, the page design is absolutely terrible (the text is huge) but the writing itself is quite amusing and readable. If you fancy a look then the page is at **http://members.aol.com/wjstreeter/index.html.**

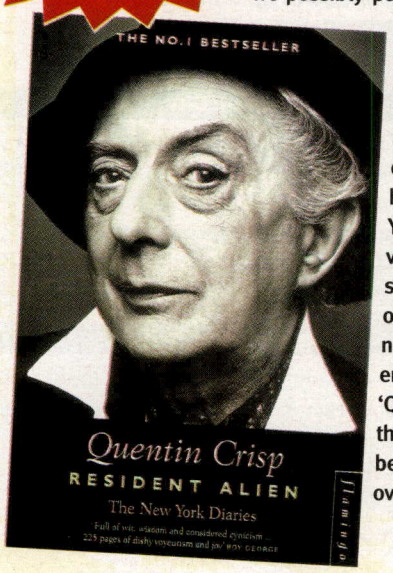


Geocities host a lot of sites by students and a lot of them either mention babes or booze — this one is booze. This is a great way to find out about various cocktails and drinks, without having to get plastered in the process. There is a rather amusing guide included to Drinking Do's and Don'ts. There's plenty of information online and although it isn't exactly serious, it's a pretty good page. Find it at **http://www.geocities.com/NapaValley/1155/index.html.**

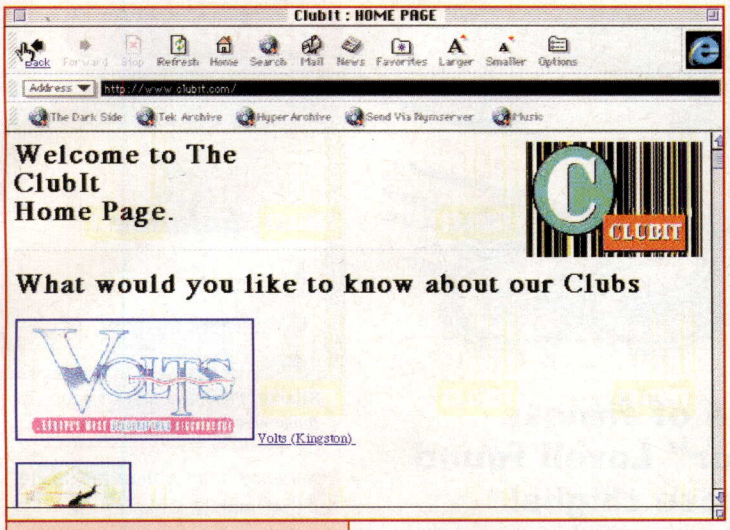
Night Fever

Clubs are getting an ever increasing amount of sites on the Web, and now *ClubIt* **(http://www.ClubIt.com/)** has joined

WIN! Quentin Crisp Whisky and Books!



Pages 72 and 73 focus on booze on the Internet, and how could we possibly put together such a guide without giving our reader the chance to have a drink on us? At http://www.taynet.co.uk/users/crisp you will find a home page based around the famous writer, Quentin Crisp who of course now has this Scotch Whisky named after him. We're giving five winners the chance to win a cask of his very smooth whisky (worth £35) and a copy of his No 1 best selling book, Resident Alien: The New York Diaries. Instead of winning a normal paper back version of the book, the first prize winner will receive a signed hard back version! To enter simply name another one of Quentin's books and snail-mail your entry to the normal address (in the back of the mag) or email your entry to comps@rapide.co.uk, with the subject 'Quentin Crisp Competition'. Please ensure that you put the correct subject on your entry if you don't want it to be lost. Obviously this competition is only open to people over the age of 18, so don't try your luck sonny.



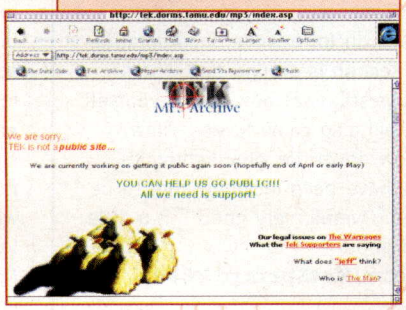
ClubIt, *nothing to do with seals, but a lot to do with nightclubs.*

their ranks. It offers the homepages of a few different clubs (all of which are owned by the same person, presumably) in Bristol, Hull, London, and all around the UK. Unfortunately they seem to be slightly illiterate — and the Web design isn't spot on — but the information is there. I particularly liked what they say about the Odyssey Club — they sell 'cocktail creations which are as intoxicating as the company and the atmosphere'. Why do we want intoxicating company? Never mind. Oh, and some of the *CGI* scripts don't work. On the subjects of clubs, gays and lesbians might want to have a look at the *Dot Cotton Club* (no, really). It's at East Anglia, and the address for the Web site is **http://www.dccc.demon.co.uk/.**

Copyright Theft

Multimedia on the Internet has long been somewhat controversial since a lot of the time, copyright laws are broken — be it intentionally or otherwise. The case of *Tek* **(http://www.tek.dorms.tamu.edu)** is one such glaring example. They were recently known as the largest archive of mainstream music on the Net. They stored songs, taken from CDs, in Mpeg 3 format. The MP3 standard allows whole CD-quality stereo audio tracks to be stored in roughly 3 megs. *Tek* was just one such archive but now it has been shut down (at least partially) because of copyright laws. Currently *Tek* are still fighting to have their site operational again, using legal means to do so. Obviously TOTAL INTERNET cannot condone copyright theft, but if they manage to sort out a legal way of getting their site back up (with the help of the music companies and *Texas A&M University*), then they will get our full support. Keep your eye on their site for future updates.

Tek - *Their MP3s don't suck, apparently. Brilliant stuff.*

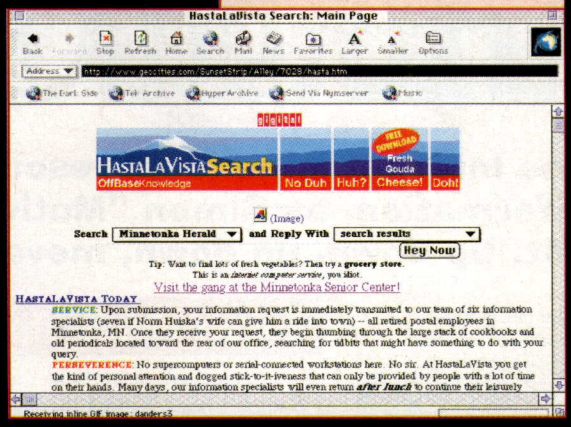


SITE OF THE MONTH

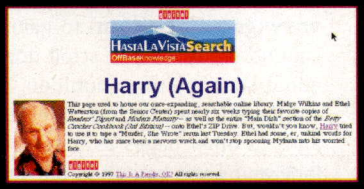
Hasta La Vista

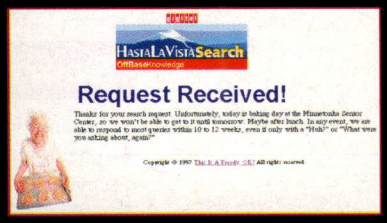
http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Alley/7028/hasta.htm

Let's hope Altavista *see the funny side — Hasta La Vista baby!*

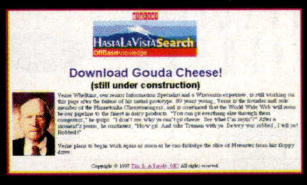


It's not often that a parody (or even humour) site becomes a site of the month but this one is so good that it more than deserves any accolade that you care to throw at it. It's a tremendous take-off of *AltaVista*, everyone's favourite search engine. It looks very authentic, and at first glance could easily be mistaken for the real *Alta Vista* (if you sort of squinted your eyes a bit and dimmed the lights). But it becomes apparent once you start clicking on things that not all is as it seems. *HastaLaVista* is run by a bunch of half-witted pensioners, who individually carry out each search, by thumbing through cookery books and old periodicals. There are various other problems that you will encounter too — your search won't work due to the fact that they're all off eating cookies and the technical manager is senile.



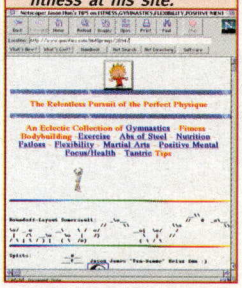


It's very, very well presented and each mouse click offers more laughs. This kind of quality is almost unheard of on *Geocities* (someone give this guy his own server) and I would heartily recommend this site to anybody who fancies a change from the norm. Let's hope that this Web author gets onto some more parodies soon. Apparently he plans to do a different one every month, which should keep people coming back for more. Maybe he just has far too much time on his hands.



The Internet is an ideal resource of fitness information, as Simon "Motivator" Lovell found out. Up down, up down, move those thighs!

Let this gymnast teach you all about fitness at his site.



Jason Hun's Tips on Fitness

As a gymnast, Jason Hun knows what it takes to generate a good physique. He is hoping that people will use the information on his page (with *Geocities* free home page service, **www.geocities.com**) to gain a superior body. As you scroll down the single page, you will learn about such topics as nutrition, positive mental focus, gymnastics, martial arts and fat loss. The page goes on for a while, incorporating links to other pages as it goes. Each section is around 200 words long and gives you good but brief suggestions of how to get yourself fit. On your way down the page, you will also come across a few logos and animated GIFs which do slow down the site slightly. It's just fortunate that no massive photos have been included and, to be quite honest, they're not really needed. Overall, very good but a little spring cleaning could do the world of good.

Male	%	Female	%
Gymnasts	5-9	Dancers	12-21
Track	6-10	Gymnasts	13-21
Basketball players	8-16	Basketball players	16-22
Swimmers/Water polo	10-18	"Ideal" for women	14-25
Football players	10-20+	"Can be dangerous" for women	Below 12
Average male	12-18	Average female under 30	20-27
		Average female over 30	24-36

Address: **http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/2894/**

Rating: @@@◇◇

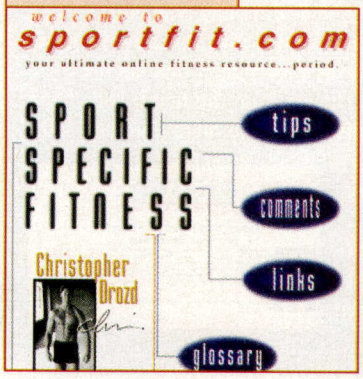
Sportfit.com

Looking pretty professional, on the first page here at *sportfit.com*, you will discover that there are four main areas; Tips, Comments, Links and Glossary. Tips is a major part of the site and aims to educate those who are interested in getting shaped up. From fifty fitness tips to perform squats the correct way, there is bound to be some information here that you will find useful. Before doing anything though, you should read the disclaimer: "In this tips section I am not telling you to train as I describe. I am not telling you to train at all. I am simply pointing out what I see that may be beneficial or improved upon, based on my experience. If you choose to use anything I have outlined or described here within *sportfit.com*, you do so at your own risk". Nice tidy design (with frames), not too many images, quick download times — pretty good overall.

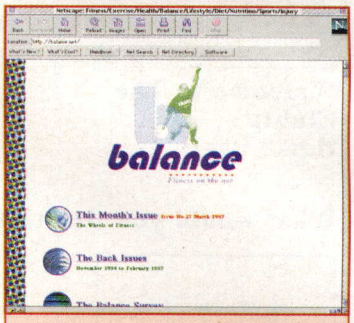
Address: **http://www.sportfit.com/**

Rating: @@@@◇

Great looking site that offers some cool tips on how to get fit.



Balance



Balance, ***the online magazine for those who use cycling to keep fit.***

Balance is an online magazine that mainly looks at the benefits cycling has on your health (it's an excellent cardiovascular workout you know) but luckily not one that asks you to subscribe, it's all free – yippee! Updated monthly, each issue is made up of a number of features, one of which when I visited was named "Forget speed, what you need is LSD"? These are quite interesting to read and the presentation is good — it can sometimes be a put off when a lot of text is just chucked on a grey background. Newbies to the site who fancy reading some of the magazine's previous articles will find plenty of back issues to load up. These date back to November 1994, which also gives you some idea of how long the site has been operating. Your views are welcomed on the survey page and if you know what you're looking for, then the *Balance* search engine should be able to find it for you. Not bad.

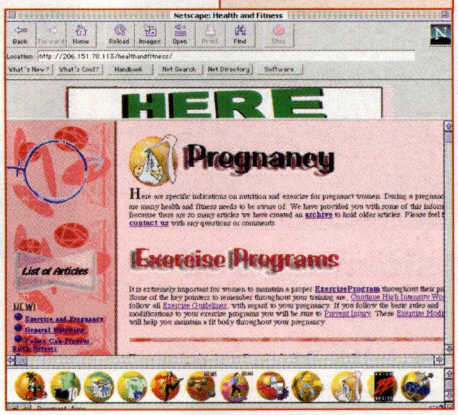
Address: **http://balance.net/**

Rating: @@@@◇

Health and Fitness with Lynne Brick

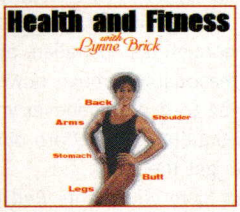
It may seem strange but what attracted me to this site was the picture of Lynne, surrounded by links to various body parts. These are of course in the correct places and it gives the site an original feel and is certainly more fun than just listing them. Clicking on a body part will load up a page of information, talking about that specific area. It's basic but if you aren't heavily into exercise, then the details offers should help you in some way or another. Other pages in addition to the single body parts can be read, such as the one dedicated to pregnant women. It shows how to keep in shape whilst the baby is on-board, as well as giving advice on how to prevent injury. If you are into aerobics, weight lifting, diet & nutrition or getting into an exercise program, then even more pages will appeal to a wider audience. Lynne has also included her Top Ten Tips which are brilliant. Excellent.

The biggest site I visited was this one!



Address: http://206.151.78.113/healthandfitness/

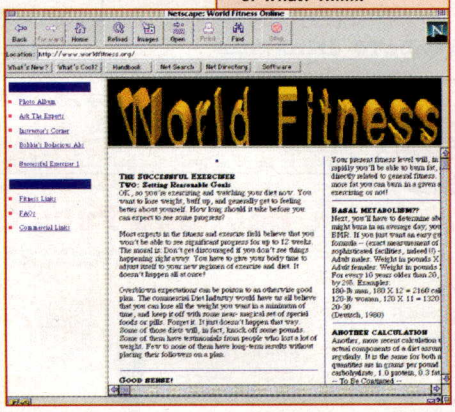
Rating: @@@@@



World Fitness Online

World Fitness Online, now that sounds like something with potential doesn't it? With a good URL, frames and lots of text on the front page, I was prematurely convinced that this site was going to be good. But like so many pages that you come across on the Net, not all is as it seems. *World Fitness* has all the signs of being great but delving in deeper — trying out some of the links — there's really not that much here worth stopping for. Fist of all, the photo album is full of shots of unknown people, most of which are half naked. There is no explanation for this, so I found it rather pointless really. There's also a list of fitness experts, (thankfully with accompanying text) an Instructors' corner and a link to information on abdominals. This may sound like a lot but really, once inside, it's no big deal. Do a little searching and you'll find a lot more sites that're far more educational.

Below: Is that man entering a freak show or what? Hmm.



Address: http://www.worldfitness.org/

Rating: @@◇◇◇

Bodybuilding

Cyberpump

An informative site that includes loads of FAQs. Updated regularly and cleanly presented. Well worth looking at for workout info.

Address:
http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/4000/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Doc's Sports Bodybuilding Source Page

If you like photos of men with nothing on but a skimpy pair of pants then come here. Lots of photos, a catalogue of clothing. Very boring and not much use.

Address:
http://www.mindspring.com/~clay.sportsdocssports.html

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Arnold Schwarzenegger Classic

Just like the man it focuses on, this site is massive, looking at the Arnold Fitness Weekend. Includes fun areas, fitness centre, nutrition centre and more. Well 'ard.

Address: http://www.schwarzenegger.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

H.O.S.S Cyber Gym

Strange! All that's here is a logo and a rather sad muscle background. This may be due to the Java error. Who knows? You try it out.

Address:
http://TRUTH.WOFFORD.EDU/~corbinbs/

Rating: ◇◇◇◇◇

BIGBOYS Weight Training Page

I thought that just the main image here was the only oversized graphic but after scrolling down, loads more are to be found. Quite a lot of information, but nothing excessively brilliant.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/4202/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

CyberIron Bodybuilding

For hard-core bodybuilders, *CyberIron* offers a lot, from drug and hormone information to details of mailing lists, powerlifting and other sites on the Web. Don't know about the main image though!

Address: http://www.cyberiron.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

MuscleNet

As well as lots of other sections, a muscle gallery, lounge and calendar can be found at this virtual gym. Make you have version 3.0 of either *Explorer* or *Navigator* when visiting — Java has been used.

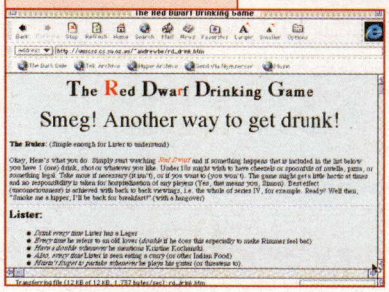
Address: http://www.musclenet.com/

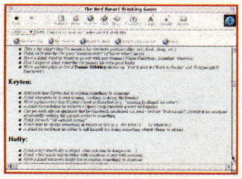
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Back after a weekend of violent sickness and bouts of unconsciousness, Paul Bartlett staggers through the latest booze sites.

The Red Dwarf Drinking Game

Get totally smashed watching Red Dwarf.



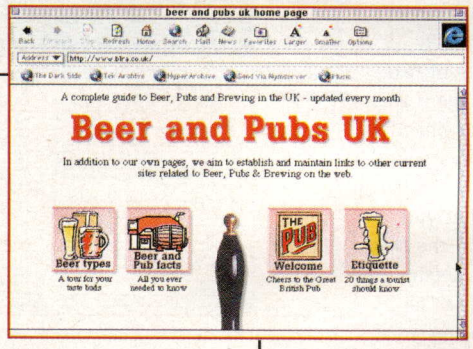


The last series, was it as bad as everyone makes out, or was it just bad as episodes of Red Dwarf go? Well, it doesn't matter. Now you can relive the golden days of Red Dwarf thanks to this totally bizarre drinking game. It's quite funny as one might expect, and yet a little bit sad at the same time. Strangely enough it's Australian, although I understand Red Dwarf is reasonably popular down-under. The game consists of having to drink whenever you see a certain thing happen (a misquoted Space Corp directive or something like that — you get the idea).

It's a good change if you happen to have your entire Red Dwarf boxed-set handy, that way you can just watch every single episode and get totally and utterly drunk in the process. Of course, you'd have to be a bit of a fanatic to want to play this game but if you are it might be worth a go.

Address:
http://uuscss.cs.su.oz.au/~andrewbe/rd_drink.htm
Rating: @@@◇◇

Beer and Pubs UK

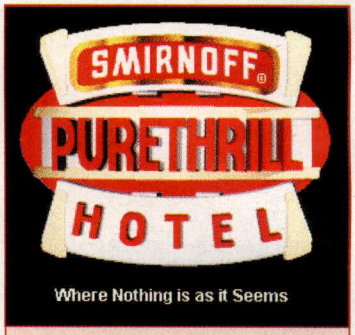


So far as I know, this is the only online UK guide to pubs and beer and as such it does a very good job. There are various articles for the picky drinker, including such gems as '20 things a tourist should know', and 'Games for a laugh at the local'. They've done their research (consisting of going on a pub crawl and drinking 20 pints, I expect) and those that fancy something a little different would be well advised to try this site. It's a not one of those awful pay sites either, so you don't have to worry about having to pay for anything — and it's certainly better value than buying a book, since it's updated pretty regularly. There is also information about obtaining their free publications online. A pretty decent site for the UK pub enthusiast and it helps make sure that you don't waste your time drinking rubbish or hanging out in poor pubs.

Endless fun and games at the BLRA site.

Address: **http://www.blra.co.uk/**
Rating: @@@◇◇

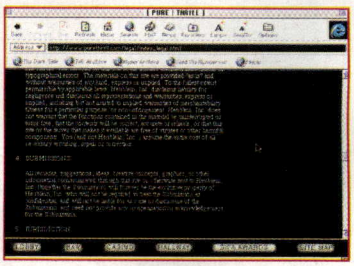
Smirnoff



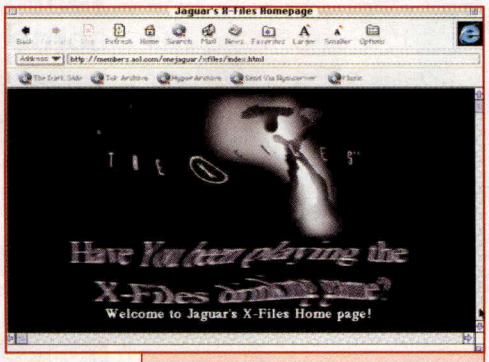
Quite nice presentation, but weird and confusing content. A shame.

Seeing as Smirnoff was partly responsible for my state of... well... unconsciousness over the weekend (along with vast amounts of cider) I only thought it fair to give them a little mention. They are certainly playing it safe, since their legal disclaimer goes on for eight screens. Every idea/graphic you submit to them automatically becomes their own, you must be of legal drinking age to go onto the site, the contents may not be correct and if you download a virus from their site, it's your problem. Phew! Apart from that, it's quite good. There's lots of *Shockwave* and smart graphics, and there are quite literally loads of different drinks that you can make up, including 007 Martini, Twisted Godmother, and the Fuzzy Navel (!). Not a bad site, but the rules and regulations tend to make it a bit off-putting.

Address:
http://www.purethrill.com/
Rating: @@@◇◇

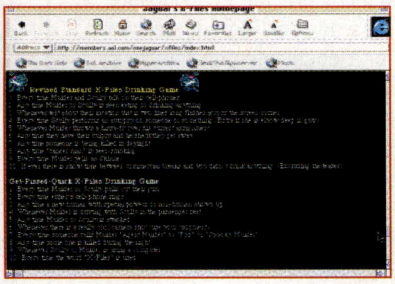


The X-Files Drinking Game



A fun (if somewhat geeky) way to get quite drunk, quite quickly!

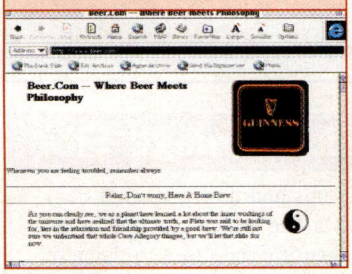
Yes, it had to happen. There are dozens of the flaming X-Files drinking games but this is one of the more well known. On first appearances this may look like your normal run of the mill X-Files page but it isn't long before you can see that this is clearly a hangout for drunken X-Files geeks. There are three different versions, depending on how drunk you want to get. The first will leave you tipsy, the second rather drunk and the third in a coma. Of course, you can try the game with water if you're under 18 — or you don't want to make a mess of the place. Even more geeky than the Red Dwarf game in many respects but still, if you like the X-Files, this is likely to make you a happy chappy.



Address: **http://members.aol.com/onejaguar/xfiles/index.html**

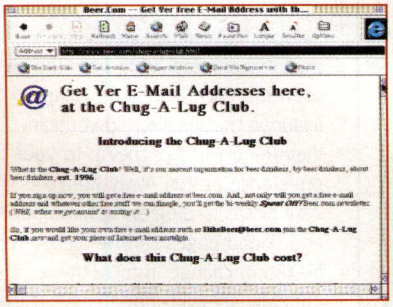
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Beer.com



Considerably more beer than philosophy, in my opinion.

Beer.com's main attraction is the free email addresses. They are not real POP3 email addresses but rather a forwarding service, so you can be **someone@beer.com** for no charge and any email sent to that address will be sent to your normal email address (rather like the free service at **http://www.starmail.com**) Mine is unfortunately not suitable for publication but it works, as the tens of thousands of commercial spam-mails I have received can prove (note that the spam was due to my carelessness, and nothing to do with *beer.com* handing information out to morally corrupt spam fiends).



The rest of the site is amusing enough, but it's pretty silly. Still, *beer.com* is far preferable to the overly cautious and somewhat pretentious Smirnoff site. The copyright blurb on *beer.com* reads quite simply: '...we at *beer.Com* feel that as long as you have beer, you don't need to worry about crafty little sneaks and buggers otherwise known as lawyers, hacks, attorneys, ambulance-chasers, scum, and whatnot.'

Address: **http://www.beer.com**

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Total Internet Favourites

Sainsbury

When you're too drunk to go down to Sainsburys and buy your wine, why not order it over the Net? Yippee, those crazy Sainsburys guys think of everything. You can order choccies too, for extra fat consumption. Yum.

Address: **http://www.j-sainsbury.co.uk/wine-direct/shop/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Scrumpy Jack

Cider was another drink which helped turn me into something resembling a zombie over the weekend (not this particular brand mind you),and this site is fairly presentable in most respects. Pretty cool.

Address: **http://www.scrumpyjack.com/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Quentin Crisp Whisky

The homepage for the new whisky. Check out our competition on the New People page to win yourself a large bottle of Quentin Crisp whisky. Woo hoo!

Address: **http://www.taynet.co.uk/users/crisp/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Cocktails

Simon likes a Long Comfortable Screw, so he tells me, and now you can find out exactly what one is and how to go about making one and all online. A few various other articles too.

Address: **http://www.designstein.com/cocktail/**

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Stella

Stella is a favourite of Simon's, and unfortunately this page isn't English. There is an English page available (**http://www.lowehoward-spink.co.uk/stellaintro.html**) but at the time of writing the server appears to be down. The drink is cool but from what I can gather, this foreign page is pretty horrific.

Address: **http://www.treknet.is/beer/stella.htm**

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Budweiser

Certainly not one of my favourites but the others seem to like it. Their web site contains various things related to both the drink and their sponsorship (NASCAR) deals. Pretty good.

Address: **http://budweiser.com/**

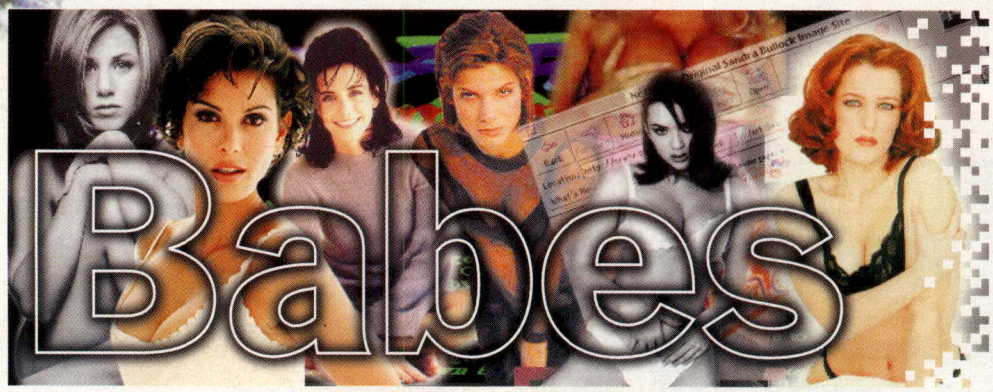
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Flowers Brewery

Okay, so maybe they aren't our favourites but they give away free t-shirts to some 'lucky' people who can answer a plain daft question. Bit of a plain looking site when all's said and done. Still, free t-shirts...

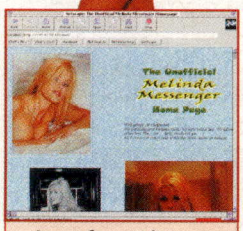
Address: **http://www.netkonect.co.uk/f/flowers/INDEX.HTM**

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇



Simon Lovell is your escort to some of the most well known female faces on the Web. Wahey all the lads!

The Unofficial Melinda Messenger Homepage



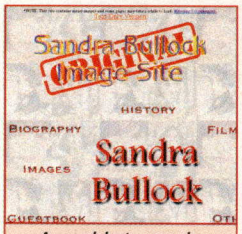
A new face and a new Net page emerges.

If there's any female that's hot enough to fry an egg on at the moment, it has to be Melinda Messenger. She's in all the tabloids, on the covers of most men's magazines and interviews are in abundance on many TV shows. And believe it or not, she's no yank! Born in Swindon, Melinda was first noticed on an advert for a double glazing company and now she's as hot as crossed buns! This is one of the very first sites to appear, so you can expect a lot more in the near future. There's very little information at the moment and just a few pictures stolen from FHM (no surprise there) and the Daily Star. Let's hope that as soon as there is more information available, it will grow. All of the images, stats and other text are crammed onto a single page, which as you can imagine isn't that good looking. But, seeing as my search resulted in just two pages appearing, I had no choice but to feature this one — the other offered no information whatsoever! If you are after a few snaps then yes, come here but otherwise, visit the FHM page **(http://www.erack.com/FHM/fhmhome.htm)** which has an exclusive interview and of course the original sexy shots!

Address: http://195.92.53.130/mel/

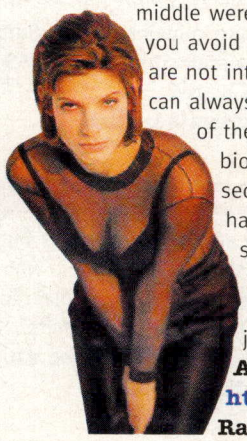
Rating: @ @ ◇ ◇ ◇

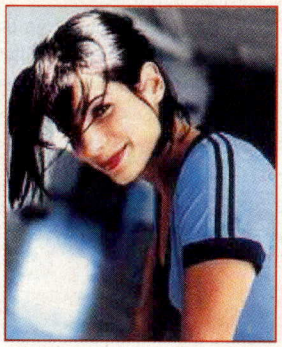
Original Sandra Bullock Image Site



A good but very slow fan page.

It has to be said, Sandra has had her ups and downs when it comes to movie making. The Net was a fine example of one of her flops, although she was pert as ever when it came down to riding at over 50Mph in the hit Speed. The person behind this site is obviously a very big fan of hers, as he's even paid for the *sandra.com* URL. Before I even got to look around the pages, I noticed a problem with the downloading. Each link to a different part of the site was an image, plus a main logo at the top of the screen and her name in the middle were all images! Thankfully a text only site is available, so you avoid all the re-drawing problems of the graphics version. If you are not interested in photos of the 33 year old (why not?) then you can always go to one of the other areas of the site, which include a biography, filmography and news section. Upon my visit, the site had details on Speed 2 which is set to hit cinemas in the States on July 6 this year. Fairly good site, but sadly just too slooooow!

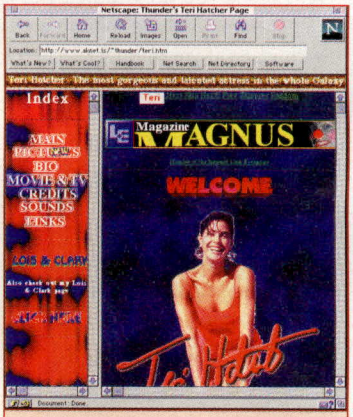




Address: http://www.sandra.com/

Rating: @ @ @ ◇ ◇

Thunder's Teri Hatcher Page



You might not be able to save her, but you may like to visit this page.

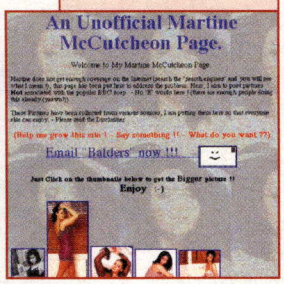
If you don't own a TV, or have been rubbing sticks together in a cave for the past year, then you wouldn't have heard of Teri Hatcher, who plays Lois (a reporter) in the New Adventures of Superman. She is now extremely popular around the world. This chap, going by the name of Thunder, is obviously a big fan and has set up a very good page for fellow Teri followers. His page offers a very good collection of nearly 100 photos, around 15 of which are his personal favourites, which he has rightly separated them from the main lot. Each link to the snap includes the file size, so you can determine whether they're to your preference or not. Away from the sexy snaps, a biography, filmography and sound pages can be discovered, making a change from what we normally see with babe pages. Nice presentation and quick loading times make it an even more pleasurable visit. I'll save you Teri!

Address: http://www.aknet.is/~thunder/teri.htm

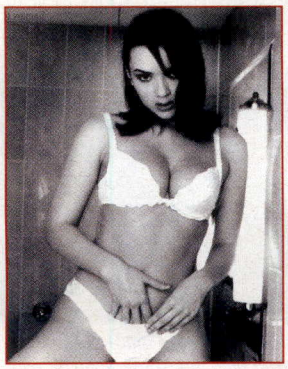
Rating: @ @ @ ◇ ◇

Martine McCutcheon

Why not a caption on the other shot?



Eastenders star, Martine McCutcheon, (Tiffany) has been in the thick of the action lately, what with giving birth 'n all. Away from being one of the most fanciable soap actress on our TV screens, she has also driven some people crazy enough to put together home pages. However, at this site, you will not find snaps of her behind the bar (or giving birth) but in some of her sexier poses, spread around some of Britain's most popular men's magazines. And that's about all you will find at this site, five or six snaps, most of which are from FHM **(http://www.erack.com/fhm/fhmhome.htm).**



Of course, if you are out just to get some good quality foxy photos, then you won't go wrong here but for those of you who want to know a little more about her, then there's not even a personal profile — which is actually pretty sad really. Apart from Martine, there's nothing else that the site holds that's attractive!

Address: http://www.baldock1.demon.co.uk/martine.htm
Rating: @@◇◇◇

Alicia Silverstone Web Site

Stunner Alicia has plenty of fans on the Net.

We all have our favourite females and for me Alicia is at the top of the list. The 20 year old beauty, star of Clueless and soon to be the leading lady in the new Batman movie, has fans creating Web sites in her honour by the bucket load. This is one of the bigger efforts, with what has to be said as the largest collection of pictures available on the Web. From her movies to premieres and award ceremonies, over 600 snaps can be grabbed from the site (either thumbnail or text links) but that's not all. Over 30 video clips reside among the pages, with another page set back for storing a wad of sounds. News updates are constantly being added and whenever possible, links are created to go off to other pages concerning Alicia. If you have a reasonably fast modem, then the frames page will be for you but if you are still on a 14.4 connection then a special text-only page has been created for the slugs amongst you. Alicia fans shouldn't miss out on this site, and if you're in search of a new desktop picture, look no further. Gorgeous or what?

Address: http://www.xmission.com:80/~bbray/Alicia/fastbar/index.html
Rating: @@@@@

Baywatch Babes

Gena Lee Nolin Official Web Site

The newbie looks good on the beach, but her Web site is no stunner. Find out info on her baby, a few pictures, fan club details — that's it. The main animated GIFs are annoying and very slow.

Address: http://www.genalee.com
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Yasmine Bleeth Online

The author has gone completely wild with the size of images here. The front page takes ages to download and if that wasn't bad enough, it crashed my machine.

Address: http://jrroof.com/yasmine/
Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Donna's Domain

A great looking page, just like the female who's focused on. The photos area is obviously the biggest section. The rest, like Filmography and Articles, is pretty lame.

Address: http://www.goodnet.com/~dj31220/thedomain/
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Erika Eleniak

Would you believe that there's more text here than pictures on the ex-lifeguard? Well there is, although the photos on offer are topless ones! It's a single page that can be read in five minutes.

Address: http://www.euronet.nl/users/tulp/erika.html
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Nicole Eggert

Nicole played Summer Quinn when Baywatch first hit our screens. This ugly page is full of links to photos, sound files and a big filmography section. Good but badly organised.

Address: http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/2613/nicole.html
Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Spawn's Pamela Anderson Shrine

A few good quality images, some personal stats and that's your lot. I was expecting a lot more, seeing as Pam is so popular. Could be a lot bigger!

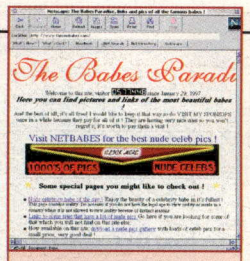
Address: http://www.public.asu.edu/~ispawn/pamela.htm
Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Pamwatch

The Official Pamela Lee Fan Club is the best site you will find on this leading beach babe. It includes a massive photo gallery, interviews, news, fan section, FAQs and more. It has been up a while a received loads of awards.

Address: http://www.pamwatch.com
Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

The Babes Paradise



A links page that also features a lot of pics.

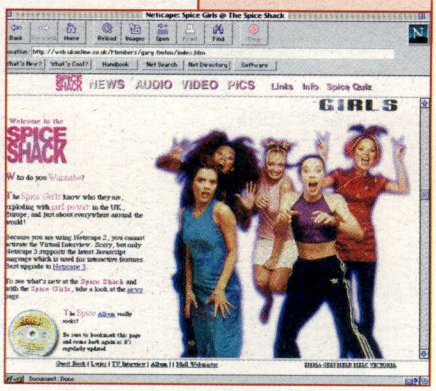
If rather than looking at one page for one particular female, you'd prefer to download photos of lots of different women, then The Babes Paradise is suited for you. From Cameron Diaz to Stephanie Seymour, Niki Taylor and Sharon Stone (see pic), this site comprises of both photos and links to other home pages. The author gathers up roughly 20-40 images of all the women he features and then just offers the links he can find to make up his pages. And with over 50 on offer, that's a lot of snaps and links! Upon arrival at the Alanis Morissette page, I was surprised to see that all the lyrics from her album, Jagged Little Pill had been included — so you can expect some little features to pop up, depending on who you are after. Every day, a new nude celebrity is featured, so note that visiting this area may cause heart failure to some! To make you stay with the page all the time, even when you are at other sites, a separate screen stays open in the corner of the screen so that you can quickly access other areas with ease. Quite a good idea, unless you don't want it open every time — you visit the front page it pops up again. Overall, loads of women, links, adverts (not good) and twiddly bits. Pwour!

Address: http://www.famousbabes.com/

Rating: @@@@◇

The Spice Shack

What do you really, really want? Well, this site is pretty cool.



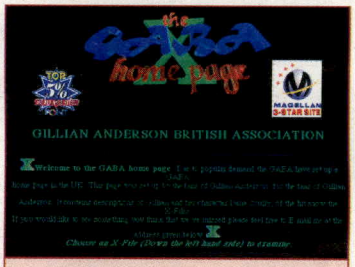
Emma, Geri, Mel B, Mel C and Victoria, they're all crazy! The Spice Girls have now managed to top the charts with four number one hits and I can tell you, that finding a site dedicated to these five athletic mad women was no problem. Personally my favourite has to be baby spice, Emma, whose smile has to be loved. Anyhow, whichever you fancy, each has they're place here at the Spice Shack with personal profiles and a couple of photos for each. On the whole, photos are on the slim side, with just a few video grabs from their songs and award appearances. A 2 Become 1 video file can be downloaded and sound snippets from their album are also on offer. If you feel like singing along to one of their songs then why not learn the words in the massive Lyrics area? Getting around is no problem, with various frames easing what can sometimes be a strenuous battle to find what you're looking for. Anyway, I'd just like to say — I wanna really, really, really, wanna zigazig ha! Like it.

Address: http://web.ukonline.co.uk/Members/gary.fenton/index.htm

Rating: @@@@◇

GABA Home Page

I know that thousands of you will be emailing me after this, but what is the fascination with Gillian Anderson? OK, she may be the leading lady in the X-Files but admit it, she's hardly a stunner is she? Personal opinion! Anyway, I thought I'd better feature her, as so many of you drool at the very thought of her. Admittedly, there are hundreds of pages to be found, most of which are just image archives. The



There are a lot of Gillian pages better than this. GABA *is pretty poor.*

Gillian Anderson British Association (sad name, I know) is different though and at the moment has an extremely pathetic photo gallery.

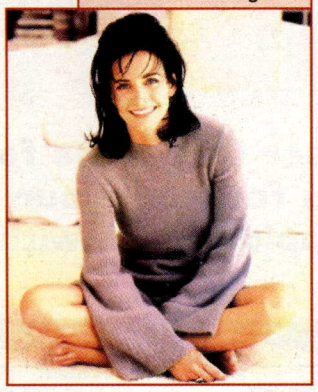
Each part of the site is named as a different X-File. For example, Personnel File 001 contains her characteristics, and a history of her. Most of the other files are really about the visitors to the site and what they would like to see. If you want to, then you can even become a fully fledged *GABA* member. "Hey everyone, I'm a member of *GABA*!". Sounds really good doesn't it?

The whole site is a bit sad really and if you want something slightly more upbeat then I would suggest using *Yahoo* **(http://www.yahoo.com)** as a starting point. A big site which is mostly a load of garbage. Case closed!

Address: http://www.hawksand.co.uk/gaba/gaba.html

Rating: @@@◇◇

The Realms of Magic



Courtney Cox, one of the tasty sorts here at The Realms of Magic.

Before entering the *Realms of Magic*, you will first have to select a server. There are quite a few to choose from, each has its good and bad points, ranging from updating to speed. Once inside, you will find out that the site is a mega gallery of supermodel and celebrity photographs. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of shots to be downloaded, and the whole project is the brainchild of one man — who is very likely to be blind by now! All of the girlie links are on the main page and once you've selected one, you will be taken to another page, which will then ask you if you would like to view a list or thumbnail of each photo. The list is better, since it's a lot faster. Whether you are a fan of Tyra Banks or Christina Applegate, you are bound to be happy with what's on offer here. Obviously, if you were to go to a page dedicated to one of them in general, then you would probably find more images but for a compilation site, this is really comprehensive and well worth a visit! Truly — the best of the Net!

Address: http://magic.caltech.edu/FEMMES/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

I Dig Jennifer Aniston

Oh go on, somebody put some pepper to her nose!

Due to Friends (Tuesdays evenings on C4) both Jennifer Aniston (Rachel) and Courtney Cox (Monica) have a massive following on the Net but seeing as Jennifer has been in the recent Loreal Elvive shampoo adverts, I thought I'd better choose her instead! This is one of the better pages that I visited. Others just included a few photos on badly presented pages but, despite the sad title, this is a little more upper class than the rest, with simple pages and fair content — even if the loading is slightly on the sluggish side. David has created four main sections; Rad Clips!, Hot Pictures!, Cool Sounds! and Info & Links. Even though the site is mainly for downloading purposes, you will find a few interesting details in the Info & Links area. This offers a detailed biography, statistics, an interview and a couple of articles which are definitely worth a glance if your are a fan. The only real problem is with the links, in that they are all images and take ages to download. Once they're in your cache then fine but the initial downloading may get on your nerves slightly. Still, better than a lot of people's efforts. If you would like an alternative page then The *Exclusive Jennifer Aniston Fan Club* home page can be found at http://jeffrey.simplenet.com/.

Address: http://directions.simplenet.com/hobbes/jennifer.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Page 3 Girls & Models

The Fox Rocks!

This is the Official Sam Fox Fan Club Web site. I think she's outdated and the page certainly isn't what I expected. Very boring with record details and the odd few sound files for Mac users. Yawn...

Address: http://members.aol.com/foxrocks/index.html

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

Joanne Guest

This is one of the more tame photograph sites to be found on this very popular page three girl. You will find some raunchy shots though, that could cause offense to some. You have been warned!

Address: http://www.coffey.com/~alizorn/babes/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

Cindy Crawford Shrine

Unfortunately for some of you, there are no nude snaps of Cindy at this site, but the photos on offer are good quality. Each week a 'Best' picture is shown and then that's it.

Address: http://www.public.asu.edu/~ispawn/pamela.htm

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Tom's Tyra Banks Page

Clearly, Tom is an avid fan of the black super model but he could do with collecting up a few more pictures and adding a little more text to encourage users to revisit.

Address: http://www.erie.net/~mrdoom/tyra/index.html

Rating: ◆◆◇◇◇

The Official Kathy Ireland Web Site

Rather than just being clustered with bikini shots, there are no less than 14 other areas here which look at subjects such as health, shopping and the world. You won't come across many model pages like this.

Address: http://www.kathyireland.com/

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◇

Naomi Campbell Home Page

Not official but still a nicely put together page. Features include the usual selection of photos, plus sound and video files to download. Enter the 'Facts' area to find an interview and astrological portrait. Ooo!

Address: http://home.sn.no/~aageba/nc/nc.html

Rating: ◆◆◆◇◇

Angie Everhart

A very small page with a few facial shots and personal views on her from the author. Worth grabbing a couple of pics, but nothing more. Shame.

Address: http://www.netscape.com/people/mlm/angie/

Rating: ◆◇◇◇◇

The Essential

Time to load up your Web browser to get the following sites into your bookmark collection. If you feel that your site is essential for our readers, then email paul@rapide.co.uk with the details.

Excite, one of the older search engines.

US Robotics, home of my very own modem.

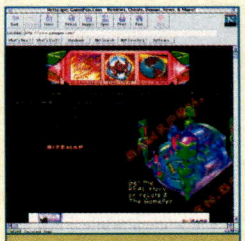
Sky Sports, for all your sporting needs.

Movie Web, the source for film info.

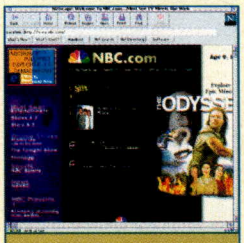
SITE	ADDRESS	COMMENTS
Search Engines		
Yahoo	http://www.yahoo.com	The most well known directory of them all. Brilliant!
Yahoo UK & Ireland	http://www.yahoo.co.uk	Concentrates on the sites a little closer to home.
AltaVista	http://www.altavista.digital.com	One of the biggest search engines around.
Lycos	http://www.lycos.com	Although not massive, this is a great place for beginners.
Hotbot	http://www.hotbot.com	*Hotbot* has the largest collection of documents. Over fifty-four million in fact!
Excite	http://www.excite.com	Now *Excite* is AOL's own search directory. Plenty of alternative search options.
Magellan	http://www.mckinley.com	*Magellan* also features its own collection of reviewed sites.
BigBook	http://www.bigbook.com	Search for companies who supply products.
Deja News	http://www.dejanews.com	If you're looking for a newsgroup then use this engine.
Dogpile	http://www.dogpile.com	Takes the data from all the popular engines, and displays it in one screen.
Computing		
Aminet	http://www.aminet.org/aminet/	The world's biggest Amiga software archive.
Downloads.com	http://www.download.com	CNet's massive software search engine.
Ibrowse	http://www.omnipresence com/ibrowse/	One of the top Web browsers for Amiga computers.
Info-Mac Hyperarchive	http://hyperarchive.lcs. mit.edu/HyperArchive.html	The world's best archive of Macintosh software.
Jumbo	http://www.jumbo.com	Get loads of software downloads from all around the world.
Real	http://www.real.com	Download the *Real* player to play *RealAudio* and *RealVideo*.
Shareware.com	http://www.shareware.com	A huge collection of shareware for all machines
Shockwave	http://www.micromedia.com	Download the *Shockwave* plug-in for *Netscape* or *IE3*.
The CUCUG	http://www.cucug.org	An essential site for anyone who owns either an Amiga or a Macintosh. Top Amiga Web-browsing action!
Apple Home Page	http://www.apple.com	Well presented site with loads of press releases.
IBM	http://www.ibm.com/	A PC owner's heaven. Loads of data on developments.
Microsoft	http://www.microsoft.com	News, downloads and general PC banter.
Psion Dacom	http://www.psiondacom.com/	Contains press releases, contact numbers and plenty of Psion product information.
Netscape	http://www.home.netscape.com	Come here for the latest versions and additional plug-ins.
US Robotics	http://www.usr.co.uk	Come here for the latest news from the biggest name in modems today.
Sport		
CarlingNet	http://www.carling-net.com	Soccer results can be found here, as well as loads of news and some competitions.
Sky Sports	http://www.sky.co.uk/sports	Plenty of sport coverage! Sports central for the UK.
SoccerNet	http://www.soccernet.com	All premiership teams covered. Results and more.
Sport 97	http://www.sport97.com/	Find out about all the UK and international sports happening this year.
SportsZine UK	http://www.sportszineuk.co.uk	Every sport is covered here. Note that there are frames.
Film & Music		
MovieWeb	http://www.movieweb.com	Sneak peeks at forthcoming films.
Internet Movie Database	http://uk.imdb.com/	The absolutely essential (and complete) guide to movies.
MovieWeb	http://movieweb.co.uk/	Complete cinema listings for most of the UK.
Hollywood Online	http://www.hollywood.com	Bucket loads of film information. Sounds, games and more!
Virgin Records	http://www.virginrecords.com	Big site with information on Virgin's artists.
World Wide Music	http://www.worldwidemusic.com	Search to find an artist, then buy the title.
Sony	http://www.sony.com/	Features material on films, music and more.

Directory

SITE	ADDRESS	COMMENTS
Twentieth Century Fox	http://www.fox.com or www.fox.co.uk	For the latest information on Fox's films — make this your first stop.
Paramount Pictures	http://www.paramount.com	Stunning site from this massive film company.
Gaming		
Sega	http://www.sega.com	Latest developments are relayed through this official site.
Sega Europe	http://www.sega-europe.com	Information for the European Sega gamer.
Hyperactive	http://www.hyperactive.com	Big site that's based down-under. Reviews, previews, cheats etc.
Sony PlayStation	http://www.sepc.sony.com/SCEA/index.html	If you own the system and want to know the latest, come here.
Gamepen	http://www.gamepen.com	Massive multiformat gaming page with the biggest links area on the web.
Dustin's Sega Saturn Page	http://www.erols.com/rdustin/saturn/saturn.html	Massive personal site that's so good, I thought I'd better feature it.
Nintendo	http://www.nintendo.com/	What with the Nintendo 64 nearly with us, this is the place to be.
Television & Radio		
BBC	http://www.bbc.co.uk	Looks at quite a few of the BBC's shows and also features programme guides.
Radio 1 FM	http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/	Make sure you have *Shockwave* when visiting.
Capital Radio	http://www.capitalfm.com	Quite a new site that includes a good guide to London.
Sky Television	http://www.sky.co.uk	Another growing site with schedules and more.
Channel 4	http://www.channel4.co.uk	Information on everything from Brookside to Countdown! Tick, tick, tick...
NBC	http://www.nbc.com	The massive American TV company have many shows on their Web site.
Living Books	http://www.livingbooks.com	Now the popular CD-Rom series of kids' story books is available online.
Education & Kids		
Endangered Species of Hawaii	http://www.hisurf.com/~enchanted/	Very good educational resource that's ideal for the kiddies.
DK Publishing	http://www.dk.com	Publisher of CD-Roms, DK's site is great if you're looking for kids educational CDs.
Seussville	http://www.seussville.com	Whey! Youngsters' favourite character is on the Web!
Schools Online	http://www.sol.com.sg/	Great educational resource that teachers may like to use.
Using the Web	http://dylee.keel.econ.ship.edu/WWWPresentation/96Bloom/tsld011.htm	Huge range of links at this great educational resource.
Banking & Finance		
Midland	http://www.midlandbank.com/	If you bank with them, then come here.
Coopers & Lybrand	http://www.coopers.co.uk	If you have a financial enquiry then use this site for advice.
Barclays	http://www.barclays.co.uk	Take a trip around Barclays Square, just like it was your local branch.
Norwich Union	http://www.norwich-union.co.uk	Nice colourful page with *Shockwave* and of course, company info.
Birmingham Midshires	http://www.birmingham-midshires.co.uk/bmbs	Useful information for customers with the building society.
The Co-operative Bank	http://www.co-operativebank.co.uk	Plenty of useful stuff here.
Sharelink	http://www.esi.co.uk	A subscription share service, designed with the smaller share holder in mind.

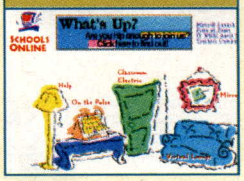


GamePen — *Video game information.*



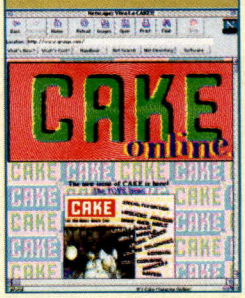
NBC, one of the huge American TV networks.

Schools Online, *for kids and their parents.*



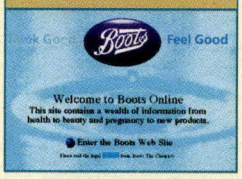
A neat little site from the Midland Bank.

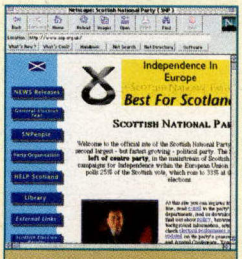
Cake, *responsible for a very rude domain name*



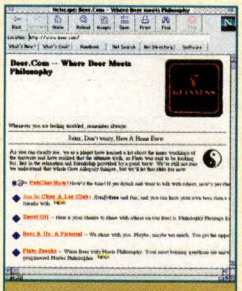
BUFORA online, is the truth out there?

Boots care about the Internet spods!



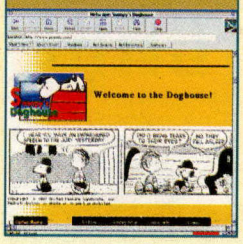


Independence for Scotland? Look no further for information.



A beer site, with little or no point to it!

Charlie Brown and Snoopy get online!



SITE	ADDRESS	COMMENTS
Weird		
Blackened Teeth	http://www.en.com/users/shaggy/black/blackened_teeth.html	Totally fantastic, and very well presented zombie action.
Devil Bunnies	http://www.netimages.com/archives/alt.devilbunnies/	I won't spoil it for you but this site is quite hilarious!
The Night Gallery	http://www.wbm.ca/users/kgreggai/index1.html	Personal page that houses the *Rude Things in my Fridge* home page.
Cake	http://www.grunge.com	Online magazine with a very big twist. Includes lots of really hilarious images.
Paranormal		
Bufora Online	http://www.bufora.org.uk/	Great site of the British UFO Research Association.
Wally World UFO Home Page	http://www.nol.net/%7Ewguimb/	Aliens would adore this site. Everything on the phenomena.
Crop Circles	http://mmm.simplenet.com/frames/crop_circles/cropcircles.html	Just like the title says, crop circles... lots of 'em!
National UFO Reporting Center	http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr/	Spotted a UFO? If so you'd better tell these people, fast.
The Ultimate Ufologists WWW Page	http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/AndyPage/	Keep in touch with news about all things out there!
Shopping		
Sainsbury	http://www.sainsbury.co.uk/	Buy wine and chocolates online.
Tesco	http://www.tesco.co.uk	Get wine, chocolates, beer, or a 'home shopping' CD Rom! Cutting edge.
CarShop	http://www.carshop.com/	Buy second hand cars via classifieds online.
Fortune City	http://www.fortunecity.com	Buy your software online. Weird but great.
Amazon.com	http://www.amazon.com	Buy all the books you want online, at discount prices.
iMS	http://www.musicshop.co.uk	Buying CDs and videos online couldn't be easier.
Argos	http://www.argos.co.uk	Argos will take care of all your shopping needs with their online store.
The UK Shopping Centre	http://www.ukshops.co.uk:8000/	Clothes, CD-Roms — it's all here ready for you to buy.
Marks & Spencer	http://www.marks-and-spencer.co.uk	The clothes shop that we've all grown up to love?
Boots	http://www.boots.co.uk	Great looking site with loads of health information and advice.
Politics		
Conservative Party	http://www.conservative-party.org.uk	Need we say more? Not enough pictures of (boring) John!
Liberal Democrats	http://www.libdems.org.uk/	Quality HTML by Paddy Ashdown himself?
Labour Party	http://www.poptel.org.uk/Labour-Party/	New Labour, new danger?
Scottish National Party	http://www.snp.org.uk	Plenty of information on the party, press releases and more.
The Green Party	http://gnew.gn.apc.org/greenparty/	Press releases, campaign reports etc.
Food & Drink		
CocaCola	http://www.cocacola.com	As you'd imagine, a great site that's fun to visit.
Cherry Coke	http://www.ccwall.com	A great fun site to visit which also features *Shockwave*.
Katy's Country Fixin's	http://www.cnmnet.com/~ksdurbin/index2/	Loads and loads of recipes are on offer in Katy's kitchen.
Beer	http://www.beer.com	Need we say more?
Humour		
Dilbert	http://www.diblert.com	Probably the most popular comic strip on the Web.
Peanuts	http://www.peanuts.com	Read all about the classic adventures of Charlie Brown and Snoopy online.
Pythonline	http://www.pythonline.com	The famous Monty Python site.
Calvin & Hobbes	http://www.uexpress.com/cgi-bin/ups/mainindex.cgi?code=ch	A very popular site amongst fans of the strip.

web weaver

Welcome once again to the part of the magazine which gives you the chance to design the ultimate Web site. From resource lists to detailed tutorials, if you're a budding Web author — read on!

Web News 82

What's been happening in the world of Web design lately? Well, if there've been any changes or additions then you'll be sure to find it in this section.

Web Design Resources 84

We've extended these pages this month, to bring you even more vital resources to help you create your home page. Be sure to include these sites in your bookmarks.

Midi on the Web 86

Do you want to add sound to your Web site? If so then join the guys and gals from Zion Train as they explain the ins and outs of Midi.

Web Design Sites 88

If you don't think you can manage a site for yourself then maybe you should hire someone to do it for you...

Java Tutorial 90

Gareth Lancaster continues his comprehensive tutorials, this time dealing with Java on the Web.

Welcome to web weaver

Oh yes, it's WebWeaver time again! First of all a correction. Our articles about Java and JavaScript in the previous two issues have been wrongly credited as being by me, when in fact they were by our ace writer Gareth Lancaster! All I can assume is that our typesetter must have thought they were so good that they just had to be by your multi talented Consultant Editor :-) Well, credit where credit's due, they were all Gareth's work, not mine!

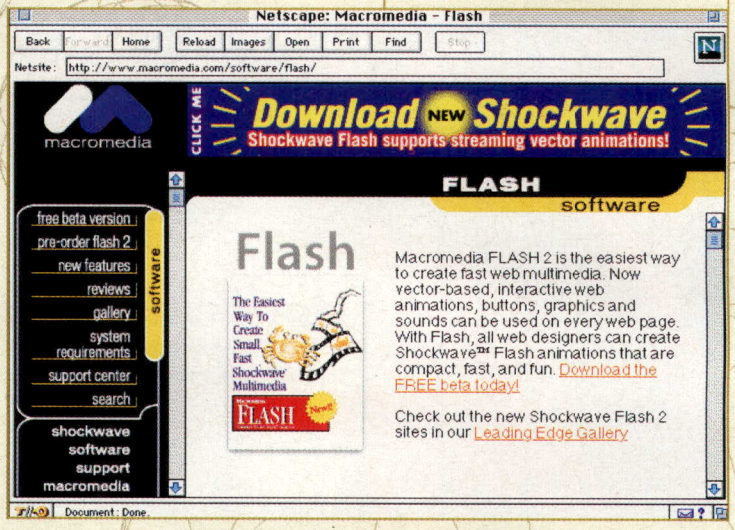
Anyway, apologies out of the way, what do we have in store this issue? Well, there's *another* article by Gareth about Java and a look at MIDI on the Net, together with our ever expanding Web Design company guide, Web Design links and the latest Web design news. Wonderful... Until next month,

Sean seanc@headland.co.uk

PS Did I mention that the Java articles were by Gareth?

Macromedia Release Flash 2.0

The very latest in synchronised multimedia to test for free!



Macromedia (**http://www.macromedia.com**) have announced version 2 of their streamed, vector-based multimedia technology, *Flash*. No sooner has version 1 won our hearts (and desktops) than version 2 is here with synchronised audio, enhanced bitmap support, a *Freehand* import option, the ability to create colour transformations and more. A free trial download is available from Macromedia's Web site and a low-cost upgrade option is available for *Flash/FutureSplash* users. We hope to have a more detailed review of *Flash* 2.0 next month.

NetObjects Fusion

NetObjects (**http://www.netobjects.com/**) have released version 2 of their much praised *Fusion* Web design tool. *Fusion* features a 'site-oriented' approach to Web design that, NetObjects claim, makes it easier for non-HTML programmers and Web experts alike to create and maintain good-looking Web sites. And others are starting to agree, with CINet (**http://www.cnet.com**) recently voting *Fusion* "Best Web Design Tool".

Fusion version 2 is available for *Windows 95* and NT, with a Mac version promised in late spring. Rest assured, we'll be reviewing *Fusion* as soon as we get our hands on a review copy. The keen amongst you may want to try downloading the fully-functional demo from the NetObjects Web site — but beware, it's not small!

Site-oriented Web design at your fingertips.

Apple To Drop **OpenDoc**

OpenDoc, Apple's component architecture for MacOS, has been effectively been dropped in the company's latest round of technology reshuffles. *OpenDoc* is at the heart of Apple's *CyberDog* suite of Internet tools and the company's decision to cease further development of this much used technology, could be seen as damaging to the Macintosh's position in the Internet market place.

However, Mac users may take heart from Apple CEO, Dr Gil Amelio's view that the need for *OpenDoc* has been effectively removed by the computer industry's widespread commitment to Java and Apple's promise to fully integrate the object-oriented architecture into the next release of MacOS.

Another reason for the discarding of *OpenDoc* and other apparently 'core' MacOS technologies — including the Mac's TCP stack *OpenTransport* — may be pressure from newly-acquired company NeXT to adopt their OS modules in preference to Apple's. If so, this may not be a bad thing, given NeXT's excellent reputation as an Operating System developer.

One thing is for sure though, with all these changes even the most loyal users of the Apple Macintosh platform must be wondering just what the future holds for their chosen computer and its place on the Internet...

All change — what next for Mac Web users?

Are Your **Domain Names** at **Risk?**

Domain names are hot property on the Net. Many of us invest seriously in our domain names — placing our email and Web addresses on business cards, letterheads, adverts and even products. But how safe is your ownership of your domain name?

UUNet Pipex's **(http://www.uunet.pipex.com)** corporate customers recently received an email which read, "Due to a policy change in NSI (the body appointed to distribute .com name space) .com domains name allocation can now not be guaranteed for international none-US companies. The recent change has enabled US companies with a registered trade name (and or service name) to have priority over registered domains. That means, if a company in the UK registers a .com but they do not have US registered Trade Name or Service name, then a US company of a comparable name with a registered US Trade name would be given priority — despite the UK company registering it first." Potentially frightening stuff but will the US really take action to 'claim back' UK-registered .com domains? Well, this still unclear.

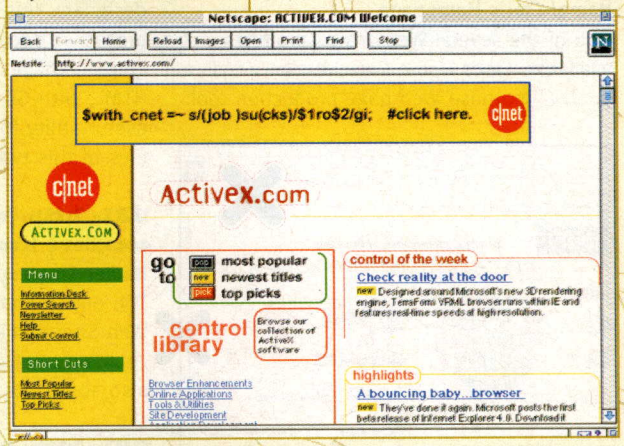
Combine this with industry wrangling over the introduction of new top-level domains and you have a situation that does nothing but confuse Net users and businesses trying to establish a successful Web presence. For up-to-date information you should visit InterNIC's Web site at **http://rs.internic.net** or the International Ad Hoc Committee (IAHC) at **http://www.iahc.org.** Domain name registration company *Netnames* also carry news of the latest news in the field on their Web site **(http://www.netnames.co.uk).**

If you are worried about the ownership of your domain name, I suggest that you contact your ISP — they should be aware of the current regulations.

New ActiveX Resource

ActiveX users may want to check out *C-Net's* **http://www.activex.com**, where they can learn about the latest downloadable developments in the *ActiveX* world. Along with access to a well-stocked library of *ActiveX* products, you can also "find everything you've ever wanted to know about *ActiveX* controls." I'm more of a Java man myself :-).

As much ActiveX *info as you could ever want...*



NEXT MONTH

In next month's WebWeaver Sean Clark will be reviewing NetObjects Fusion – the "object oriented" Web design package that promises to transform the way you build your Web sites. We'll also have an expanded Web design company directory, more Web design resources and the latest news from the Web's edge. Unbeatable.

Web Design

Yet more sites for budding Web designers — from the informative to the cool and amusing! — Resources

URL: http://www.aimtech.com
Name: Jamba
Java authoring software, that takes the pain out of programming. Based on a object model, *Jamba* produces results quickly and easily. Generally considered one of the best.

URL: http://www.adobe.com
Name: Adobe
The home of *Photoshop*, the essential item for good Web graphics. Just remember, at the end of the day — we only want to see those 216 browser safe colours.

URL: http://www.browserwatch.com
Name: Browserwatch
Every web designer needs to know what browser types surfers are using. Check out this site for the latest browser-usage info and all the plug-ins you will ever need.

URL: http://www.charm.net/~web/
Name: The Web Developer's Virtual Library
A well structured guide and resource to just about everything you might want to know about Web developing.

URL: http://www.claris.com
Name: Claris Homepage
One of the several Web design products available, *Claris Home Page* Version 2.0, is a good all purpose Web page production tool.

URL: http://ds.dial.pipex.com/pixelp/wpdesign/wpdintro.htm
Name: Web Page Design from Joe Gillespie
A very pleasing looking site ideal for those already involved in print design or wanting to explore the Web as a publishing medium.

URL: http://www.dimensionx.com
Name: Liquid Motion Pro
A great program for creating all sorts of Java based animation. Not as useful for general Applet creation as *Jamba* but still a cracking good program.

URL: http://www-b.gamelan.com/index.shtml
Name: Gamelan — The Earthweb's Java Directory
What is there to say — if you want to know anything about Java, or just get your hands on those Applets, then this is the essential stopping off place.

URL: http://www.gsn.org/web/html/yale/StyleMan.htm
Name: Web Style Manual at the Yale Center for Advanced Instructional Media
A comprehensive site listing all aspects of Web design. This site covers considerations that should be made when designing a site — but it's not really a site for those that want Wiz Bang gadgets.

URL: http://www.infoaccess.com
Name: HTML Transit
Perhaps a god-send to a lot of Web designers, this utility will take word processor documents and their associated graphic images in at one end and spit out HTML, with Gif or Jpeg, at the other. A very useful utility for anyone that needs to put files of this type on the Web.

URL: http://www.killersites.com/core.html
Name: Creating Killer Websites.
The online home for the Creating Killer Web Sites book, by David Siegel. The site contains a lot of plugs for the book but also some interesting ideas and tips.

URL: http://www.media.mit.edu/MediaLab/Research.html
Name: Media Lab Research
Based at MIT, this is not a site about Web design but is none-the-less a good stopping off point to discover where all the latest new media might lead.

URL: http://www.microsoft.com
Name: Microsoft Frontpage 97
Another Web design tool, now shipping for the Power Mac as well as for *Windows 95*. Microsoft's offering to the market is a far more complete and all purpose package than many others available.

The inclusion of a Personal Web Server may be of great help to some — but will the entrapment into one set of products restrict your creative talents?

URL: http://www.photodisc.com
Name: PhotoDisc
From print media to multimedia, we all need those nice graphical images. *PhotoDisc* is a commercial company, producing images for traditional print material. The site has a lot of free images — be sure to read the licensing agreements however.

URL: http://www.sgi.com
Name: Grafica Obscura
Web design is about practical skill and creative ideas. These pages from SGI cover a number of aspects of design — some relevant, some not. A very interesting and informative read none the less.

URL: http://www.tiac.net/users/axlrosen/
Name: Java Warp
Every Web Designer needs a break, so if you have a hatred for Bill Gates, then check this out. Basically it's a simple version of *Kai's Power Goo* but as a Java Applet. Practical? No. Entertaining? Very.

URL: http://www.ulead.com
Name: GIF Animation
There are several programmes out there to build animated Gifs and they just keep getting better. Why not try out the offering from Ulead and whilst you're there, try *ImagePals*, a rather natty drawing package for the PC.

URL: http://www.webpub.com/tools/vrml.html
Name: Web Publishers — Tools and Utilities — VRML
A jumping off point to all you will ever want to know about VRML, including a handy link to VRML tools.

URL:http://worldwidemart.com/scripts/
Name: Matt's Script Archive
A handy source for those scripts you always seem to need. Most of the Scripts are in perl for Unix, although there are some ports to other operating systems.

Name: Macromedia
URL: http://www.macromedia.com
Macromedia remain in the list having just released *Flash 2*. Regular readers will know all about this excellent product, which is radically improved with this new release.

Name: Marimba Inc
URL: http://www.marimba.com
With the so called 'Push' technologies gathering speed on the Net, Marimba offer *Castanet*. *Castanet* is a new technology for the distribution of channels over the Internet and Intranets, with channels being made in one of the many Web technologies. This is where the future of the Web may be, so I recommend you check it out!

Name: PointCast
URL: http://www.pointcast.com
Promoting similar ideals to Marimba, PointCast's offer to Internet Channels is a news service. Using the PointCast server technology, you can create your own news services. One exciting development at PointCast is the I-Server, developed for Intranet broadcasting.

Name: Internet Explorer Security
URL:http://www.microsoft.com/ie/security/update.htm
Web Designers need to be aware of any security issue that might hinder any of their sites. Microsoft have a very comprehensive section, detailing all presently known problems with their very own *Internet Explorer* browser and advice on any problems.

Name: Netscape Security
URL:http://home.netscape.com/assist/security/index.html
Netscape also have a section related to security — although they do not seem to be quite so readily prepared to divulge the problems related to their own browser, *Netscape Navigator*...

Name: Netscape Email Security
URL:http://www.webcomics.com/shockwave/
This particular problem relates to the use of *Shockwave* within *Navigator* to read email. Email can be read using the *Shockwave* plug-in due to the directory structure that *Navigator* employs. Read all about it here.

Name: Java Security
URL: http://java.sun.com/sfaq/
Not wishing to leave anyone out, read all about Sun's Java Security problems.

Name: Browserwatch
URL: http://www.browserwatch.com
Still in the list and still one of the best sites for discovering all you need to know about the latest moves in browsers.

Name: Netscape JavaScript
URL:http://home.netscape.com/comprod/products/navigator/version_2.0/script/scrip t_info/index.html
This site contains the Netscape JavaScript Authoring Guide and the Netscape JavaScript Tutorial, along with links to some really good example sites where JavaScript has been used.

Name: Submit-it
URL: http://www.submit-it.com/default.shtml
What do you do with your site once you have designed it? *Submit-it* of course! This is definitely one of the most useful sites for submitting your URL to all those lovely search engines, to make sure your pages maximise their hit count.

Name: Art, Copyright and the Web
URL: http://weber.u.washington.edu/~jcmills/class/biblio.html
This page provides links to many resources concerned with copyright of work on the Web and other issues. Whilst this area of the law is still grey here in the UK and abroad, this list has many useful places to swat up on your legal knowledge.

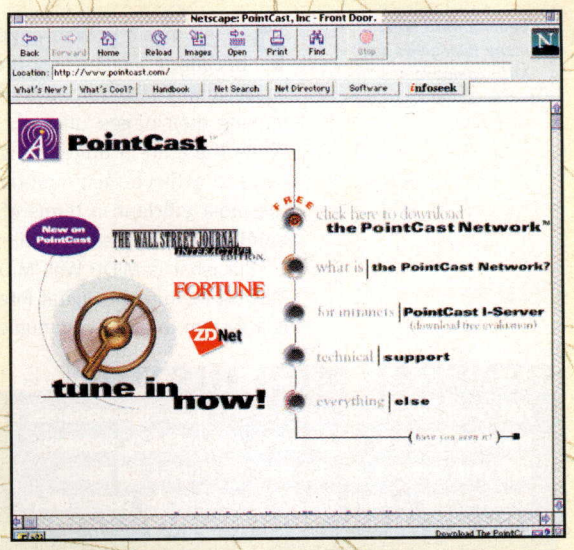
Name: The Copyright Website
URL: http://www.benedict.com/
If the list of resources from Washington (above) is to overpowering, then this site provides large amounts of copyright information. What do you expect? It is *The Copyright Website*.

Name: The Spider's Web
URL: http://www.InContext.ca/spidweb/
This is an online magazine that covers Web design issues. It contains a collection of features all relating to various aspects of online design.

Name: UI-Design
URL: http://www.io.tudelft.nl/uidesign/
Describing themselves as a specialist site for multimedia and interaction design professionals, this site contains lots of useful snippet about design issues from a user perspective.

Name: Logo, Logotype & Icon Design
URL: http://www.sirius.com/~jkuzich/
This site is a company portfolio, which however delivers a lot of comparable design ideas neatly, focusing on corporate identity and logo design.

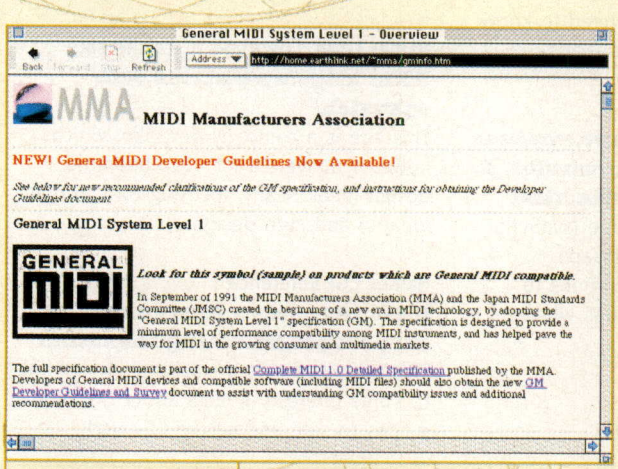
Name: CGI Reference
URL: http://www.sunvan.net/support/programminglinks.html
This page contains a small number of links to some interesting facts about CGI. With guides to safe and secure CGI work.



This list was compiled by Web maestro Paul Tingle (pault@headland.co.uk) who would like it known that his new computer monitor is bigger than Sean's.

Maximising on the Net

Electronic music specialist Zion Train (zt@wobblyweb.com) explain some of the finder points of adding music to Web pages, with a MIDI master class.



General MIDI solves many headaches for MIDI composers.

Placing music in Web pages is becoming increasingly popular as designers look for ways of making their pages 'unique'. While there are a quite a few ways to achieve this, undoubtedly the most efficient in terms of Net bandwidth is to use MIDI files.

But what is MIDI? Well MIDI, or Musical Instrument Digital Interface is a system to allow communication between different models from various manufacturers.

MIDI allows a music synthesiser to be controlled remotely by a hardware or software sequencer. Modern sequencer packages, like Steinberg's "Cubase" or Opcode's "Vision" are incredibly sophisticated programs, which utilise MIDI in increasingly more complex ways.

Complete tracks or pieces of music can be stored in MIDI file format and then freely transferred and replayed on other equipment.

GENERAL MIDI HISTORY

GM or General MIDI was the first protocol developed by manufacturers to create some compatibility between different devices. As GM has developed, so some manufacturers have sought to extend the possibilities inherent in GM. Roland have created GS — which is GM plus extra sounds — kits and some extra control capabilities, while Yamaha's XG protocol allows use of up to 3 drumkits, 3 simultaneous effects, 32 voice polyphony and is compatible with GM and GS. Discussions have also been underway between manufacturers to update the MIDI specification with the release of XMIDI but this seems to be some way off as yet.

Introducing General MIDI

There are a dazzling number of synthesisers and sound modules available today and these can be combined in an infinite variety of unique ways. Because of this, a system was created to allocate specific sounds to specific places in these synthesisers, to allow music to be transferred and understood by the a wide range of equipment. This system 'General MIDI' has a fixed set of sounds, which all such manufacturers adhere to on models which display the GM logo.

The General MIDI spec means that, for example, sound number 1 on each GM module will be a piano. Although each piano will sound subtly different for each manufacturer, it will be a piano all the same. Most new synths include GM and most manufacturers produce at least one GM unit.

There are synth modules available for use with desktop computers, most notably the Roland Sound Canvas series, which conform to the GM standard and provide sound quality related to their price. In a computer environment, there are software based GM possibilities — PC Soundblaster cards and *Quicktime* musical instruments for the Mac both support GM.

Joining groups is one way to get advice and keep up to date.

General MIDI and the Net

Imagine that the 'song' is the MIDI File and the 'synth' is in the software. The missing element is the 'sequencer' to play the 'song'. This part is played by the MIDI Web browser plug-In.

The two main MIDI plug-ins for *Netscape* and *Explorer* are *Crescendo* and *MIDIPlug*. With either of these in your Plug-ins Folder, you have the final piece of the jigsaw — so whenever you arrive at a page with embedded MIDI files, you will hear, possibly, some sweet music.

There are hundreds of sites which play — or let you download — MIDI files. In these places you will hear bizarre renditions of favourite songs, as well as awe inspiring dedication to the art of reproduction through meagre means. Thousands of artists have suffered and been celebrated in the MIDI world — a world that is as compulsive as it is, occasionally, repulsive. There are often some elements of copyright infringement involved and the current world of Net MIDI might not always be this wild, check it out while you can.

Creating MIDI Files

Visiting pages with MIDI files is one thing but creating them has some subtleties it is worth being aware of. Before you begin to

MIDI

LINKS

MIDI PLUG-INS
http://home.netscape.com/comprod/products/navigator/version_2.0/plugins/index.html
MIDI PROGRAMMERS TOOLKIT FOR WINDOWS
http://www.maxmidi.com/toolkit/
JIM'S MIDI LINKS — AWESOME COLLECTION OF SITES.
http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/6356/links.html
HARMONY CENTRAL
http://www.harmony-central.com/MIDI/
MIDI MANUFACTURERS ASSOC. GM OVERVIEW
http://home.earthlink.net/~mma/gminfo.htm
MIDI COMPOSERS EXCHANGE
http://www.mindspring.com/~s-allen/picks.html
MUSIC, MIDI, AND COPYRIGHTS ON THE NET
http://www.higgs.org/midi/MIDI-copyrights.html
MIDI TECHNICAL FANATICS BRAINWASHING CENTRE
http://www.servtech.com/public/jglatt/

play a MIDI file your synth is a blank sheet, ready to follow instructions — at least it should be. In reality each of the fifteen musical instrument channels available is left in the state that it was last playing in. You may have found the most awesome oboe version of Jimi's "Star Spangled Banner" but it won't sound half as nice when it starts affecting the violins in the "Ave Maria" of *PopeNet* that your visitor moves to!

The first major point is, leave the user synth (be it software or hardware) as you found it. Make sure you start each channel with clear instructions and end each one tidily. Return modulation settings to normal, raise volume levels when a track has faded out and beware of pitch bend!

MIDI Files hold only small amounts of digital data compared to the byte hungry *RealAudio* or AIFF sound formats, since they only hold the note, controllers and patch information. The one drawback to this is that the sound is left up to the synth at the user's end and unless each individual channel has its own patch (or program change) instruction, it will default to patch 0, piano. It can be devastating to hear your work being interpreted by several drunken pianists but this truly is the sound of a MIDI File with no patches in it. All major sequencers have these facilities, so use them.

If you have your own home studio set-up and want to convert your original material to play via a Web page, you need to think of a few things. Firstly, it will not sound the same — the sounds in your Mac or PC are unlike the sounds you are used to using. It pays to experiment, go through different sounds with the same musical part to find the most appropriate, try things out — oboes make nice basses transposed down an octave. Attempt to get the best out of your synth and check thoroughly before you finally transfer your sequence to a MIDI File. Opcode's Mac software, *OMS* (*Open Music System*) has been adopted by Apple. This has a special *Quicktime* driver which allows your sequencer to use *Quicktime Instruments* as its synth — a good way to check your music before it goes online

It is usual to leave two or four bars silent at the start of a MIDI file, to set the control change and controller information — this is called the 'header'. The header can give settings for a wide range of parameters but it is advisable not to leave out patch info and the following controllers: volume, expression, pan, and fx depth. You should only use one vol. command per channel at the start, set to no higher than 100. Volume rides in the song should be made using the expression controller.

As with HTML, MIDI files can be downloaded and dissected — find a song you like and take a look at the MIDI information, you can learn just what makes a good MIDI tune in this way.

Just remember — MIDI has a good part to play in a well made site and it pays to be aware of its possibilities and able to use them.

Download other sites' MIDI to learn more.

Helpful utilities can make all the difference in keeping sound quality.

Glossary

MIDI file	Transferable piece of MIDI music. Although each software sequencer saves in its own file type, each one has the capability to read and write Standard MIDI Files (SMF's).
Modulation	MIDI Controller that affects the amount of vibrato in a sound.
Patch	The exact location of a sound within a synth or sound module. A sequencer can store this information to ensure proper replay of sounds.
Pitchbend	MIDI Controller that effects the pitch of a note in the same way that bending a string on a guitar might.
Programme Change	see Patch.
RealAudio	Software Plug-In for playing pre-recorded audio over the Internet.
Sequencer	Hard/software device which records, stores, plays and edits MIDI data.
Synthesiser	Electronic musical instrument used to synthesise 'real' instruments.
Sound Module	A synthesiser without a keyboard which is controlled via MIDI.

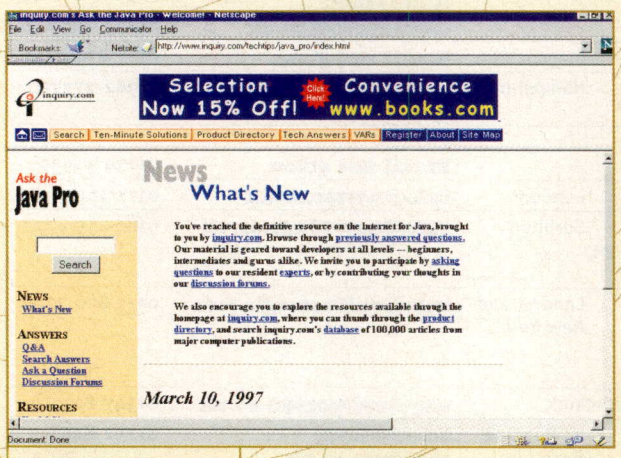
Web Design Directory

If you would like to be added to our list of Web design companies in the UK, send an email request to webweaver@headland.co.uk. Remember, you must have at least one national client.

Company Name	Web Address	Clients Include	Location	Email Address	Tel Number
21st Century Design	http://www.21stcentury.co.uk	The Northern Partnership, Easygrow, Dawn Awakening Music	London	21design@21stcentury.co.uk	0181 951 0413
Alchemy	http://www.alchemy-ims.co.uk/	Meridian Broadcasting	Southampton	info@alchemy-ims.co.uk	01703 676764
A Digital Oasis	www.kerrial.com	Clients not given	Chichester	d.oasis@kerrial.com	01243 513000
Argo Internet Project Management	www.gvis.co.uk	Clients not given	—	admin@gvis.co.uk	01343 551777
A-Z Internet Design.	http://www.a-z.co.uk	Unilver, Ford, DIP International, LA International, ECTS	London and Brighton	a-z@inweb.co.uk	01273 430480
Abel Internet	www.abel.net.uk	Clients not given	Edinburgh	info@abel.net.uk	0131 445 5555
Alchemy Interactive Marketing Solutions Ltd.	http://www.alchemy-ims.co.uk/	Meridian Broadcasting	Southampton	info@alchemy-ims.co.uk	01703 676764
Bluewave	www.bluewave.co.uk	TNT Express, National Grid Company	London	not given	0171 706 3500
Business Monitor	www.businessmonitor.co.uk/design/	Scottish Annuity, Control Risks Group	London	web_sales@businessmonitor.co.uk	0171 820 7733
Computability Aberdeen Ltd.	http://www.computability-aberdeen.co.uk	Seatex Ltd., The Scottish Federation of Sub Aqua Clubs (SCOTFED) and the Aberdeen Web Site Directory	Aberdeen	sales@computability-aberdeen.co.uk	—
Cyberstop Web Design Services	www.cyberstop.net/welshbis/	Renault, Vodafone, Shorts Auto Electrical	Wales, Swansea	internet@cyberstop.net	01792 46 50 50
Delphi Creative	creative.delphi.co.uk	Speedo, SKY TV	London	creative@delphi.co.uk	0171 757 7160
Design & Image	http://www.almac.co.uk/diversity	Third Way, Stuart Titles Ltd.	London and Edinburgh	harrington@presence.co.uk, cliffm@cm44.netkonect.co.uk	0171 373 3432
De-Sign.Net	www.de-sign.net	Clients not given	London	info@de-sign.net	0171 736 8138
Designercity	www.designercity.com	Esquire, Cosmopolitan	London	info@designercity.com	0171 428 9980
Direct Connection	www.dircon.net	Orange, English National Ballet	London	sales@dircon.co.uk	0181 297 2200
Foresight New Media	www.foresight.co.uk	Walt Disney, BT	London	drew@foresight.co.uk	0181 748 3550
Headland Multimedia	www.headland.co.uk	Alliance and Leicester, Farnell Components, & Fisher Scientific The Shamen, S4C,	Nottingham	info@headland.co.uk	0115 955 1155
Hyperinteractive Ltd	www.hyperinteractive.co.uk	Mars, Cellnet	London	felix@hyperinteractive.co.uk	0171 207 1616
ID Consultancy	http://users.aol.com/designate	K2 Systems plc, JanAkkerman	Chester	designate@aol.com	0151 336 6199
indexfinger	www.indexfinger.co.uk	Dolland & Aitchison	London	info@indexfinger.com	0171 251 1966
Intermedia PHD Ltd	www.idltd.co.uk	Green Flag, Coopers & Lybrand	Leeds	info@idltd.co.uk	0113 239 3011
inter.net.uk - part of The Network Group	www.inter.net.uk www.network-group.com	BT, Coca Cola, Orbis Publishing	Crawley and Southampton	toby@inter.net.uk	01293 616000
Internet Vision	www.ivision.co.uk	Rank Xerox, The Economist	London	vision@ivision.co.uk	0171 589 4500
J&H Service		Take Flight, Martins	London	ianmuir@dircon.co.uk	0181-659-1664
KMP Internet	www.kmpinternet.com	R&D Systems, Polar Technology	Manchester	james@kmpinternet.com	0161 429 6590
Lexus Marketing Comms Ltd.	http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/lexus	SMC Pneumatics Ltd, Pneu User Club	Southend	Lexus@compuserve.com	01702 480639
Lightwave Web Design Services	http://www.lightwave.co.uk/	Dogs Today	South Wales	enquiries@lightwave.co.uk	01792 298772
MarketingNet	http://www.marketingnet.com/	The Ritz, Travelodge, DTI, Grant Thornton, Courtaulds, MISYS, Business Link, TMI	Warwickshire.	pb@marketingnet.com	01926-832123
Millennium Facilities Ltd	www.milfac.co.uk	Fiat, Business Links, Celtic Film & TV	Cambridge	milfac@dial.pipex.com	01480 413934
MMM group	www.mmm.co.uk	Thomas Cook Holidays	Bolton	info@mmm.co.uk	01204 387 410

Company Name	Web Address	Clients Include	Location	Email Address	Tel Number
Mouse Power Multimedia Studios		BBC, Motorola	—	enquires@ mousepower.co.uk	01225 744 448
Nation-Net	www.nation-net.com	Wine Cellar, CIS	Manchester	Email not given	0161 839 9337
Netsite Productions	http://www. netsitepro.co.uk	Kelloggs, Nintendo, Raytheon Marine Electronics	Hampshire	matt@netsitepro.co.uk	01962 777750
NetSquared Internet Solutions	www.netsquared.com	MuseumNet	—	Email not given	01234 349300
NETTEC	www.nettec.co.uk	The Jockey Club, DTI	London	info@nettec.co.uk	0171 460 0500
net Village	http://www. netvillage.co.uk	Taylor Woodrow Plc, Greythorn Plc, CRC Recruitment, The Entertainers Network	Surbiton	info@netvillage.co.uk	0181-255 6777
Online Magic Ltd	http://www. onlinemagic.com	Boots The Chemist, Channel 4 TV, BBC, BSkyB, The Economist Group, Manchester United	London and New York	info@onlinemagic.com	0171 820 7766
Port80	www.port80.co.uk	Swinton, English National Ballet	York	enquire@port80.co.uk	01347 823123
Rapid Eye	http://www.rapideye.co.uk	British Midland, Queen Productions Ltd, Compuserve UK France and Germany	Nr Reading Berkshire	acleverley@ rapideye.co.uk	01252 844853
Red Kite New Media	www.kite.co.uk	Hewlett-Packard, Puma	London	kite@facilities.co.uk	0171 307 5303
Scotweb	www.scotweb.co.uk	Scottish Publishing, Geoffrey (Tailor) Kiltmakers	Edinburgh	scotweb@clan.com	0131 447 3479
Silkworm Multimedia Development ltd	www.silkworm-md.co.uk	Client list not given	Sevenoaks	alex@silkworm-md.co.uk	01959 523873
SM@RTNET Ltd	www.smartnet.co.uk	Vogue, GQ	London	sales@smartnet.co.uk	0171 491 1945
Softopt	www.softopt.co.uk	Apple, Canon	London	mail@softopt.co.uk	0181 395 3100
SoLNet Systems Ltd	http://www.solnet.co.uk	Corgi Classics, British Robotics Assoc, Garage Equipment Assoc, Modelauto Magazine	Birmingham	sales@solnet.co.uk	0121 693 7638
Sonnet	www.sonnet.co.uk	Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Muscular Dystrophy Group	London	webweaver@sonnet.co.uk	0171 891 2000
Subnet Ltd	www.subnet.co.uk	Client list not given	Lancashire	subinfo@subnet.co.uk	01282 616000
The Internet Factory	www.netfactory.co.uk	Maiden Outdoor, Interpharma	London	info@netfactory.co.uk	0171 379 0344
The New Media Factory	www.mediafactory.co.uk	BP, Financial Times	Cambridge	info@mediafactory.co.uk	01223 576320
The Software House	http://www.softwarehse.com	The Royal Childrens Hospital, Bristol	Bristol	laurie@softwarehse.com	01454 316330
UXL	www.uxl.co.uk	XEBEC, Videocom	London	info@uxl.co.uk	0171 721 7142
Vision Internet	www.vision.internet.co.uk	Client list not given	London	pvision@vision.internet.co.uk	0181 348 4622
Vivid Edge Ltd	http://www.vivid-edge.co.uk	Pioneer In-Car Entertainment, Mercury/Siemens Intranet, Internal Bass Records, International Institute for Environmental Development	—	info@vivid-edge.co.uk	01483 454 044
WebDynamics	http://www.webdynamic.com	TCS The Entertainment Network	London /Surrey	Dynamics01@aol.com	01293 823275
Webweavers	www.webweavers.co.uk	The RNLI, Sunseeker Luxury Boats, The DTI, Bournemouth Internet, Globalprint	Bournemouth	webdesign @webweavers.co.uk	01202 431220
WebMedia	www.webmedia.com	BBC Design Awards, Lloyds Bank	London	webmedia@ webmedia.com	0171 224 7244
Webpage Unlimited	http://www. webpage.co.uk	Sphinx Exhibitions	Sunderland	info@webpage.co.uk	0468 592119
Web Productions Ltd	www.webprod.com	Panavision UK	London	lee@webprod.com	0181 324 1324
WebSite Developers Ltd	http://www.wsd.co.uk	Ham-Let Valves & Fixings, LetLok	Leeds	design@wsd.co.uk	0113 262 5418
WebWorlds	webworlds.net	The British Motocyclists Federation	Birmingham	web@webworlds.co.uk	0121 355 2364
World Wide Wez Designs	http://www. cybersearch.co.uk	Client list not given	Exeter	wez@eclipse.co.uk or webmaster@ cybersearch.co.uk	01392 491376
Zebra Communications	http://www.zebra.co.uk/	Prescription Pricing Authority, Top 50 UK Web Sites	Newcastle, Manchester	info@zebra.co.uk	0191 261 2252

Java



Ask The Java Pro — *useful for programming tips*

If you've followed Gareth Lancaster's last two tutorials, you should have a firm understanding of JavaScript. Now it's time to take the plunge into real programming... It's Java time!

In the past two issues of TOTAL INTERNET, I've been discussing some applications of JavaScript and, more specifically, how it can be used to spruce up your web sites to create something more interactive. Now although that was by no means a detailed appraisal of the ins and outs of the tool, it should have laid the ground work for your JavaScript experiments. So I now turn my attention to Java. Again, over the next two articles I'll be laying the foundations for a better understanding of Java and how it can be used to go even further than its script based sister.

No doubt you've all heard of Java and many of you have probably even seen Java applets running in your web browser from time to time but may not have even realised what they were. It has, perhaps, been the biggest buzz word for the past year or so, not just because it is a fully functional object-orientated programming language but because, above all else, it has cross platform support — meaning that applets created in Java can be run in any Java compatible browser. This is obviously extremely exciting, as it removes the platform specific ties of languages before it and means that an application that may have originally been created on a PC, will run on a Macintosh, a UNIX machine or some other supported platform.

It has also created a stir because of the extra interactive edge it adds to World Wide Web sites. You can basically have full blown applications running, not only through your browser but directly on your HTML pages, embedded along with the text and the pictures — essentially running seamless to the rest of your site. And because of its powerful methods of passing and accepting variables and events, back and forth between the applet and the rest of the web site, it has many applications for improving the overall feel and nature of a site. For instance, some large sites now have Java front-ends to them, for the purposes of navigation around the site, which provide a much smoother, polished interface than HTML and JavaScript combined can provide. Unfortunately, however, because it is a no holds barred programming language, it's not for the faint hearted and any previous programming experience you've had before will be a great asset.

So where do we start? Well in two articles I'm obviously not going to cover detailed examples and explanations of the language (that will come in future issues) but I can start you off on the right path. Over the next three pages I'll be describing just what the language is, what you'll need to develop in it, where you can

Newsgroups

With Java being such a hot topic, there are many different news groups where the language and its applications can be discussed. You'll find these especially useful if you have problems and can't find a solution as invariably, other, experienced Java programmers will offer their advice free of charge. Some of the best groups are:

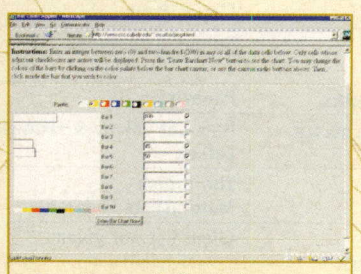
comp.lang.java
comp.lang.java.advocacy
comp.lang.java.announce
comp.lang.java.api
comp.lang.java.misc
comp.lang.java.setup
comp.lang.java.tech

PROPERTIES, EVENTS AND METHODS

Properties — These are attributes of an object. For example, a button object will have a property, maybe called 'text', which describes the text that appears on the button.

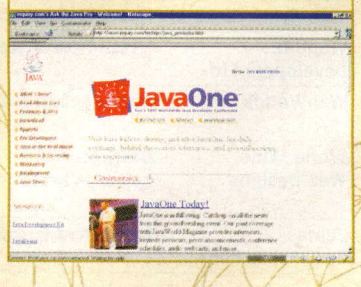
Events — These are actions that occur involving an object. When you click on a button, for instance, an event will be triggered that matches the occurrence. Events are invariably where you attach your code, waiting for specific events to happen in order to perform some operation.

Methods — These are operations that can be carried out on an object. If you were dealing with a printer there may be a method 'print' which forces a page to be printed. Not all objects have methods, however.



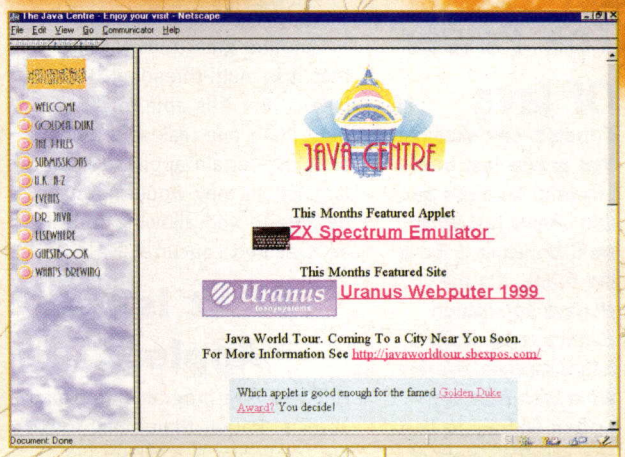
Java allows web sites to become more interactive.

Java information on the Net is in great abundance.



PROBLEMS WITH JAVA

Unfortunately, because of the nature of the way in which Java works — basically being a non-platform specific language — it is inherently slower than native platform applications would be. This means that to get any real satisfactory performance out of a Java application, you'll need a fairly fast machine. This fact is currently seen as one of Java's biggest drawbacks but there could be solutions around the corner, such as Java hardware boards that will help to process the Java code in a more native way, speeding up the operation of applets created with it. None of these boards are currently available but they should be soon, so watch the pages of TOTAL INTERNET for news when it arrives.



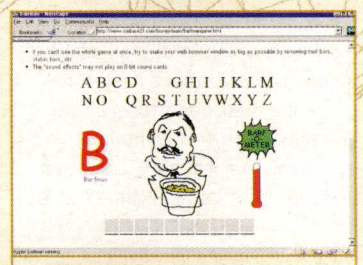
Java Centre — *brilliant UK Java resource*

find examples of applets on the Internet, where to find the best resources on the language and where, when all else fails, you can turn to have your Java programming questions answered. I'm sure that's more than enough to start with.

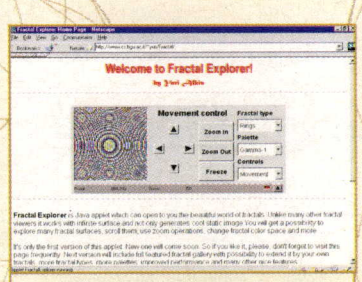
Mind Your Language

Java is what is known as an object-orientated language. This means that, unlike conventional linear languages such as C, there is no set execution order for commands in a Java applet, being more akin to C++ or Visual Basic etc. in this respect. Instead, parts of an applet's code are executed according to events such as mouse clicks etc. (if you've experimented with JavaScript you should already be familiar with this concept). This has obvious advantages, as it requires much less code to achieve results and it's easier to track just what an applet is doing at any given time.

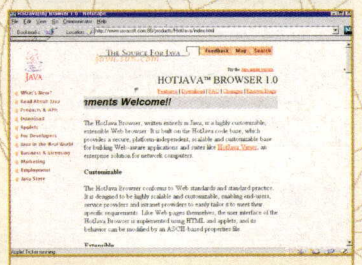
For the want of being shouted at, it also makes programming in the language much easier than programming in a similar linear environment. The use of objects is something we're all used to working in modern operating systems. Buttons, text boxes, drop down boxes, printers — they're all objects and within Java are treated as such, with each having their own individual properties, events and methods.



More and more games are appearing written in Java.

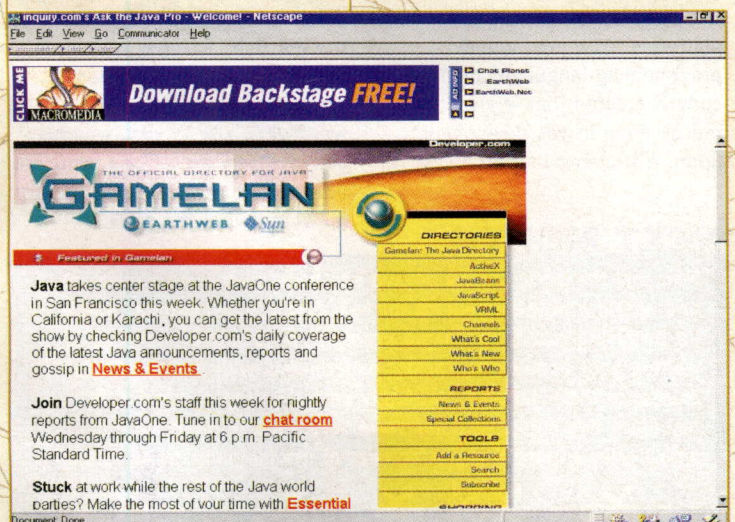


Example apps show the power of the language well.



Complicated applications can be created in the language.

Gamelan — *a very comprehensive Java site.*



Example Applets

Many people the world over are already producing very interesting applications in Java, that you can browse on the Internet (you'll need a Java compatible browser such as *Netscape 3* or a Java plug-in). The majority of examples you'll find, will be for calculating loans and other such mundane affairs — but there are some good little applications and plenty of fun games. Try some of the following sites for examples:

ZX Spectrum Java Applet — http://www.odie.demon.co.uk/
Bar Graph Generator — http://www.csc.calpoly.edu/~ercarlso/prog4.html
Barfman Game — http://www.starbase21.com/looney/main/barfmangame.html
Fractal Explorer — http://www.cs.bgu.ac.il/~yuri/Fractal/

Also, the *Java Centre* has a very long list of Java applets that you can find on the Internet.

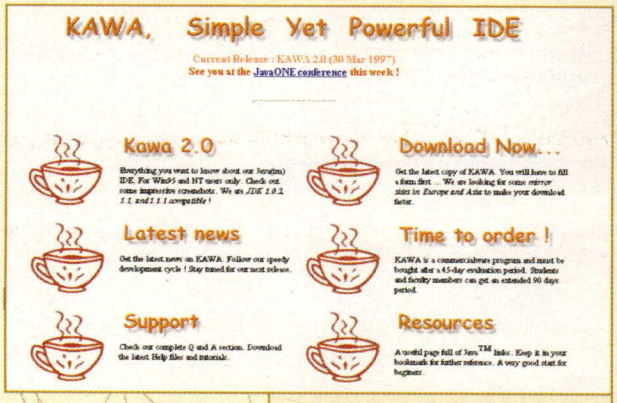
The Power Of Java

If there's one example that proves just how powerful Java can be and shows just what we'll be using it for in the future, it's the *Hotjava* application. *Hotjava* is basically a fully functional World Wide Web browser written entirely in Java and provides most of the support you'd expect to find in browsers such as *Navigator* and *Explorer*. Check out *Hotjava* at http://www.javasoft.com/hotjava.html.

Another great plus for Java is that it is multi-threading. This means that it is able to carry out more than one task at a time, enabling certain applets to run far faster than they would normally be able to and allowing code to be executed concurrently.

What Is An Applet?

Finished Java programs are called applets. Rather than being a text file, an applet is a binary file, produced by using a development kit to compile your code. Fortunately that's all you really need to know about it as there should be no need to ever get involved with the compilation process. The resultant compiled form of your code is aimed at a 'virtual machine', rather than being platform dependent, which is why a compiled Java applet will work on any number of different platforms. With any normal programming language compilers, code is created that is specific to the platform it was developed upon, restraining its portability.



KAWA — *integrated development system for* Windows 95.

Knowledge Wave — *Java development kit for non-programmers.*

Java Resources

A search on 'Java' on somewhere like *Yahoo!* will yield a whole number of different Java resources, far too many for you to easily be able to see what's worth a visit or not. But there are some good resources tucked away in there and the following sites constitute just a few examples of these:

Yahoo! Java Section — http://www.yahoo.co.uk/Computers_and_Internet/Programming_Languages/Java/
Ask The Java Pro — http://www.inquiry.com/techtips/java_pro/index.html
Sun's Java Site — http://java.sun.com/
Java Tutorial — http://sunsite.unc.edu/javafaq/javatutorial.html
Java FAQ - http://sunsite.unc.edu/javafaq/
Gamelan (very good site) — http://www.gamelan.com/

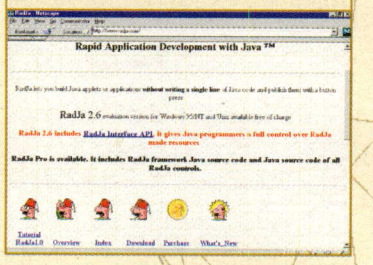
PROGRAMMING ENVIRONMENTS

Unlike HTML or JavaScript, you can't simply use a text editor to create functioning Java applets, since the code needs to be compiled into a binary form for use on the World Wide Web. There was a time when the only real option for developing Java was the *Java Developers Kit* which, for non-programmers especially, was unwieldy and fairly complicated. But, luckily, there are now a number of other options which make programming Java a much simpler task and there are even development environments aimed towards the non-programmer, which still enable you to produce powerful Java applets.

The Java Developers Kit — http://www.javasoft.com/JDK-prebeta1/index.html
KAWA for Java — http://www.tek-tools.com/kawa/
Knowledge Wave (for non-programmers) - http://www.ginesys.com/kwave.htm
Rapid Development with Java (again for non-programmers but with full support for more experienced dabblers) — http://www.radja.com/

Most of these environments have evaluation versions online, that you can download and use for a limited time.
It's probably an idea to check out a couple until you find one that suits you most, as everybody prefers slightly different environments when it comes to programming.

Rad-ja — *Another non-programmer development kit.*



The Java Centre

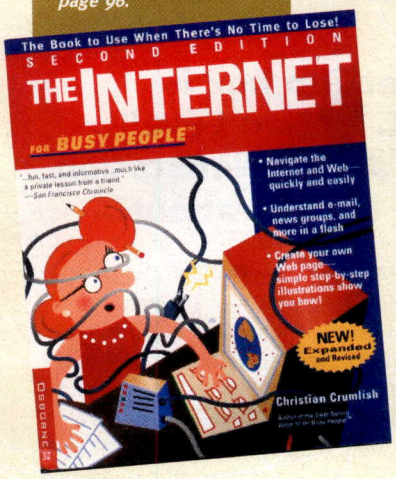
(http://www.java.co.uk/)
It's worth mentioning this site on its own, not only because it's based in the United Kingdom but also because it's one of the best Java resources currently available on the Internet. It features a showcase of the latest Java applets, a Dr. Java section where you can find answers to Java questions that are bugging you, a listing of some of the best applets currently around on the net, details on Java related events in the UK, links to other resources and information on Java applet programming awards. It's a worthwhile site to visit, whether you're a Java expert or a complete novice as it provides good backup for both end of the scale.

NEXT MONTH

Now that the basic outline of Java has been given, you should go and obtain a development kit for next month's installment, where I'll be giving you some simple examples of Java and hopefully wetting your appetite for further experiments with the language. Of course, in the meantime, I strongly advise you to check out the resources I've listed, as some have very good tutorials on them which offer a more in-depth account of the language in all its glory.

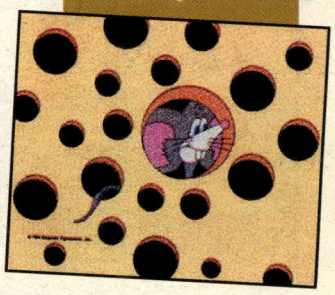
Net Reviews

Too busy to learn the Web? Make time to read page 96.



If you're making a purchase — big or small — you want to be sure you're spending wisely. Let us help you make the right choice.

Some choose futuristic images, others prefer cheese. Page 100.



This Month

Set-Top Box Review 94
Surfing the Web without a computer? Sounds crazy but it's true — and we have all the details on the Set-Top alternative that's hitting the UK right now.

Book Reviews 96
Sean Clark sifts this month's book releases, with titles on the latest in multimedia programming, how to learn about the Net in instant — and how to cheat people! Plus another excellent competition.

CyberEssentials 100
This month's selection features digital cameras, digital dictation machines, netcapable minicams and a horde of colourful mouse mats.

The Internet's Election Hangover 103
Sean Clarke investigates the role of the Net in the General Election and ponders the possibilities for democracy online.

CyberCafés 104
We head north of the Border to check out two popular Net Cafés in Edinburgh. Plus our regular round-up of the best CyberCafés around the UK.

Can We Talk? 106
Just who are you talking to when you visit Chat sites on the Net? More importantly, do you really care? Gareth Lancaster examines how the Web allows us to talk in a brand new way.

Zion Train Update 113
Our resident music experts discuss the importance of links and their role in the creation of their new experimental music based Web site — *NoisyNet*.

A cheap option but are Set-Tops a viable alternative? Page 94.

Examines the anonymity of Web relationships: Page 106

If you have a product you would like to see reviewed in any of our sections, send it to TOTAL INTERNET, Rapide Publishing, 14a Union Street, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2JS. Alternatively call 01626 68611, fax 01626 51484 for more details, or email us at — totalint@rapide.co.uk.

For Sean Clark's monthly opinion of the Net, visit page 103.

Set-Top Box

Product: NetStation
Company: Net Products
Price: £349 + Monthly Subscription Charge of £14.99
Contact: 07000 852852
Web Site: http://www.nchannel.com

As the very first Set-Top box is launched in the UK, Simon Lovell takes a close look at the NetStation to see what all the hype is about...

The standard television, video and hi-fi equipment is all very well these days but to make your friends envious of your up to date equipment, it's soon going to be fashionable to have a Set-Top box plugged into your multisocket. It may just look like a satellite box but can you click around Bart Simpson's virtual home on Sky TV? I think not!

Calling itself the NetStation, this new kit has been on the production conveyer belt for a long time now and after missing several expected release dates, by the time you're reading this, high street stores should have it on their shelves... pray! As usual, the UK has been late to receive such technology – the hardware has been available in Japan and the States for several months now. But they haven't seen the NetStation though – ha!

"NetStation provides a cheaper and easier solution to surfing the superhighway"

For those of you who want to get Netted, but don't want to foot the bill for a £1000+ personal computer, NetStation provides a cheaper and easier solution to surfing the superhighway.

Opening the box, you will find all the relevant bits and pieces to get you connected; power supply, phone cable, scart lead and extra long extension for if your phone socket is a long way from your TV. Also a credit card size smartcard is provided and if it is not recognised to be in the NetStation, then it's not possible to surf — simple as that. This is excellent for maintaining security. If you'd rather not connect your television up then there is a port at the rear of the NetStation for a monitor and if you load up a Web page and find a nice photo you fancy taking away on hard copy, then a printer port has also been added. As soon as you've got the NChannel logo on your screen, deliberated your way around a few screens and entered your personal user name and PIN number — bingo, you're surfing the WWW. I really didn't think that it would be as simple as it was but the creators have really made it for Net and computer illiterates alike. It certainly makes a change from tapping in service provider details and attempting to get a modem to work which can sometimes take an age. Net Products have their own service, so there's no need to choose any ISPs.

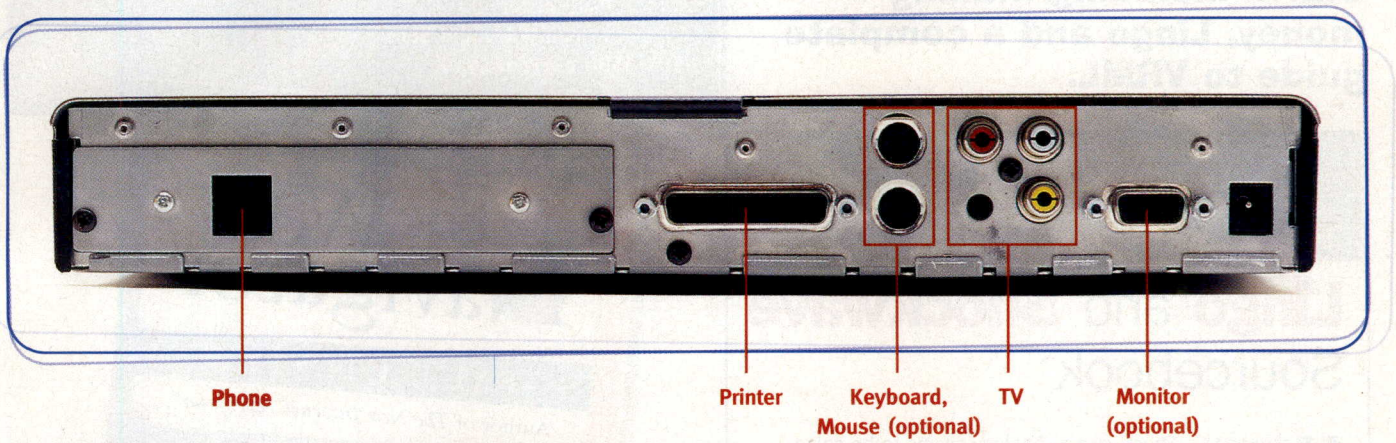
Once on the browser screen, it's time to forget *Internet Explorer* and *Netscape Navigator*, although the NetStation browser does feature similar functions; back, forward, bookmarks, reload, enter address and so on. As far as plug-ins go, most of them are supported (*Shockwave*, *RealAudio*, *Java*) although there isn't any news about whether or not they will be able to be updated.

To work your way around pages, you are provided with a remote control which is crammed with all the buttons you need. This I have to say is awful and entering addresses is both annoying and time consuming, costing the user extra money. The letters on it are tiny and if you are used to using a keyboard, then the alphabetical order

Setup: 5/5
Ease of Use: 2/5
Value: 4/5
Overall: 4/5

Plug in and play
The Controller is horrible
A lot cheaper than a PC!

Review



The Set-Top Box Bandwagon

It seems as though the NetStation is the only Net-Top box we are going to see for a while. Over in Japan and the States, it's a completely different kettle of fish, with Sony, Samsung, Curtis Mathes, Hitachi, Sharp and Mitsubishi all having either Web TV or Net-Top boxes on sale.

I spoke with Sony UK and they said that there were no plans to bring their machine into the UK in the near future. Bandai's Pippin Set-Top box is set to be released within the next couple of months, and if we can get our hands on one then you can expect a review next issue. Fingers crossed!

THE KEYBOARD

It will set you back an extra £75 or so, but for that money you won't have to put up with the fiddly controller that is incredibly annoying. Not only are you able to tap in Web addresses quickly, but the track-ball situated to the top right of the keyboard allows you to move around pages with ease, again, avoiding the slow movement of the hand controller.

is a nightmare. Also, if you enter address and get it wrong then you can't go back and rectify it, you will have to go through the tedious process of inputting the information all over again.

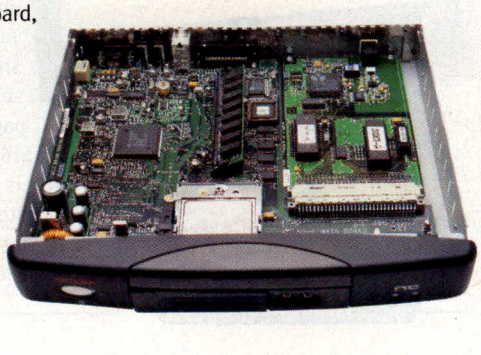
To avoid all of the problems of the hand-held control, you can always acquire the NetStation keyboard which is of course, a lot easier to use. It will set you back around £75 though! I wasn't sent the keyboard, so I can't honestly comment on how effectively it operates.

The machine which I was given to evaluate included an internal 28.8 modem which is pretty slow these days but I was told that there is a good chance that when it hits the shelves, it will be a 33.6 modem that resides in the black box. Who knows?

A good invention that has a few flaws. However, if you can't afford a fully fledged PC and are dying to surf the superhighway then this is definitely a good alternative solution.

STATS

32-bit Processor
•
Printer Port
•
HTML 3.2 with common extensions supported
•
28.8K modem
•
Smartcard Slot



THE INFRA-RED CONTROLLER

This is the blighter which you will be forced to surf with. Even though it's incredibly annoying to use, all the needed buttons are featured to allow you to surf the Net — you'll just have to spend some time learning how to use it quickly. Remember, every minute is costing you money!

Amongst other uses, you can get around image maps using these keys.

These are the keys you use to type in your Web address. Very poky indeed!

Books

The latest books come under the microscope with Sean Clark. Including making money, Lingo and a complete guide to VRML.

Author: Vineel Shah and John Musser
Publisher: John Wiley and Sons
ISBN: ISBN 0-471-16893-9
Cost: £27.50

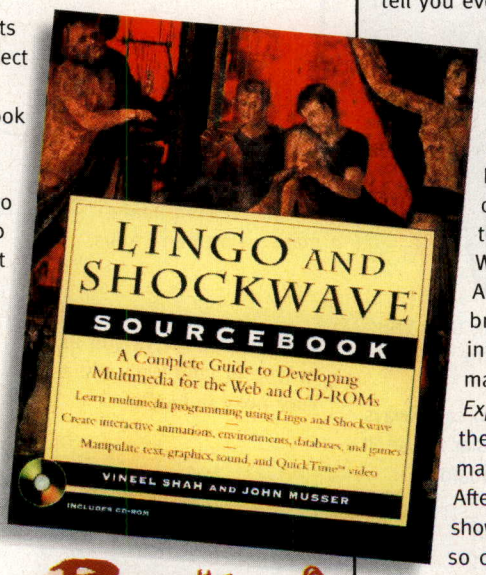
Lingo and Shockwave Sourcebook

Macromedia's *Shockwave* technology seems to be going from strength to strength at the moment — just look at the way the company is expanding their "shocked" portfolio to include new technologies such as *Shockwave Audio* and *Flash*. However, despite the current breadth of *Shockwave* (which can be used packages including *Authorwave*, *Freehand* and *Xres*), it has to be said that most *Shockwave* users still associate it with one product in particular — *Macromedia Director*.

This book focuses very much on this association and deals almost exclusively with "*Shockwave for Director*". It first covers the basics of the *Director* package, then introduces more advanced *Director* authoring before finally encouraging you to get your hands dirty by getting to grips with the "p-word" — programming.

Director's resident programming language *Lingo* is explained in depth and the book is filled with example programs and *Lingo* scripts. What's more, it also comes with a CD-ROM containing a number of complete projects — all ready for you to dissect and examine in detail.

I admit to liking this book a lot. Many *Director/Shockwave* books seem to steer clear of Lingo — perhaps fearing that too much programming will put potential buyers off — but this title turns the p-word into a major selling point. This title won't necessarily turn you into a demon programmer with a yearning to learn really difficult stuff — like Java (!) — but it will help you make the most of *Shockwave for Director* and allow you to enhance the way your Web sites both look and operate — which can surely only be a good thing.

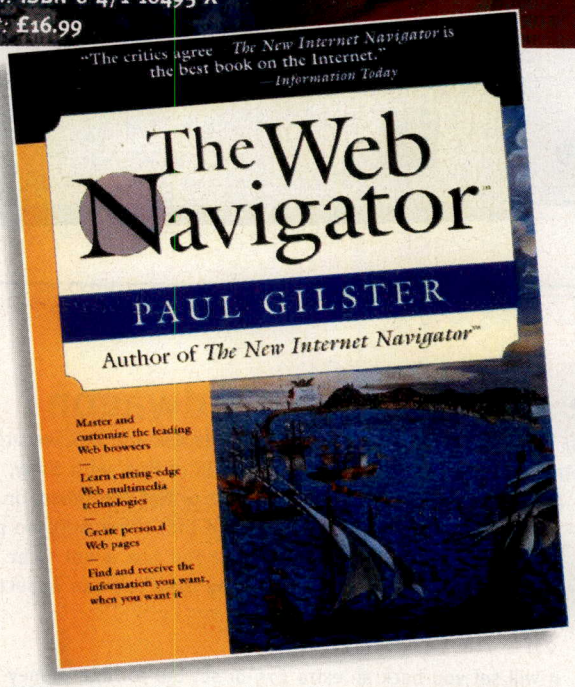


Book of the Month

Rating: 4/5

The Web Navigator

Author: Paul Gilster
Publisher: John Wiley and Sons
ISBN: ISBN 0-471-16495-X
Cost: £16.99



Paul Gilster has quite a track record when it comes to Internet books. He wrote The New Internet Navigator which is quite-rightly one of the best-selling guides to the Net — if you haven't seen it already I would suggest having a browse in your local bookshop. In his latest offering he moves subtly from the Net-at-large to the Web-in-particular and gives us The Web Navigator, a book which aims to tell you everything you might ever want to know about using the World Wide Web.

The book starts with an introduction to the Web — explaining how it works in broad terms, what it can do, its history and so on. The author then tells you how to log-on to the Net via a PC and an Internet Service Provider (this section is strongly US-biased, although some of the advice does cross the Atlantic) before getting into the nitty-gritty — how to use a Web browser and the World Wide Web in general.

Although the book talks about the multiplicity of Web browsers that now exist, all of the examples and detailed information specifically refer to *Netscape Navigator*. You may find this off-putting if you use *Microsoft Internet Explorer* — but don't get too worried, the vast majority of the content of the book will still be relevant to you no matter what Web browser you use.

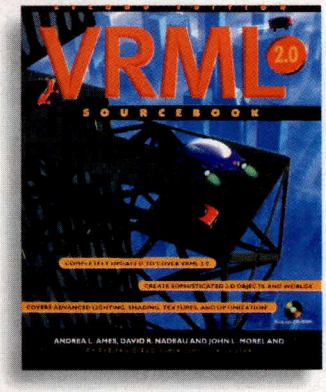
After dealing with the mechanics of your browser, the book then shows you how to search the Web, use plug-ins, read email and so on. This is followed by sections on composing your own pages and Internet commerce and security.

At £16.99 and 490 pages (with no Web directory padding!) the book is excellent value for money and will certainly appeal to the new Internet user, or the self-taught Web user who wants to fill in the gaps in their knowledge. An excellent book I reckon, and another best-seller maybe?

Rating: 4/5

Author: Andrea L. Ames, David R. Nadeau and John L. Moreland
Publisher: John Wiley and Sons Inc.
ISBN: ISBN 0-471-16507-7
Cost: £34.95

VRML 2.0 Sourcebook: Second Edition



This is one of those "written by the people who wrote the language" type books. In this case it deals with *Virtual Reality Modelling Language* — or *VRML* — and while it's not quite by the actual people who wrote the language (*VRML* was very much an Internet community effort) it's by a team of experts from the San Diego Supercomputer Centre who seem to live and breath *VRML*.

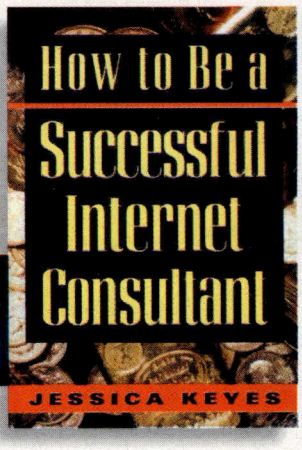
As someone whose main experience of *VRML* is via high-level authoring tools, it comes as a bit of a shock to see *VRML* 'worlds' listed as sets of commands and computer instructions. But then this is not really a book for the casual *VRML* user like me — it's more for the serious *VRML* buff or graphics enthusiast and as such it deals with the subject in a serious way (ie. with code, code and a bit more code).

But saying that, this book is not just an annotated program listing. There's also plenty of explanatory text that even I could get to grips with — including information on lighting, viewpoints and so on. It comes with a CD-ROM containing all the worlds discussed in the book, together with browser software and plug-ins, and as a complete "all-you-want-to-know-about-VRML" package it can't really be faulted.

Rating: 4/5

Author: Jessica Keyes
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
ISBN: ISBN 0-07-034531-7
Cost: £14.99

How to Be a Successful Internet Consultant



Mmm, an interesting idea — a book about how to make money on the Net! Such titles were all the rage a few years back, when everyone thought that just having a Web page was a sure-fire way of getting people to buy your product but I haven't seen anything like it for a while.

This years approach to raking in the cash is apparently to set yourself up as an 'Internet Consultant' where, armed with appropriate buzzwords, you will be able to charge companies huge amounts for you advice. Alternatively, you can set up your own company, find some sort of niche and then wait for the cheques to roll in...

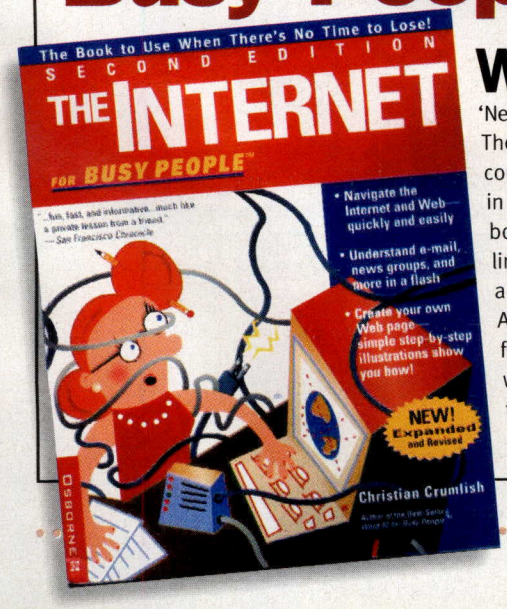
OK, so I'm sounding cynical but the approach of this book is surely a little cynical itself? The problem I think, is that it's basically a US book designed for the US reader. Yes, some of the information about setting up a business, marketing yourself, costing your services and so on is useful but surrounding it in 'get rich quick' packaging I feel does not suit the less 'bullish' UK market. Perhaps worse is that the US-bias is so heavy that almost all of the so-called tips and resources provided are next to useless for the UK reader.

A UK version of the book would score higher — perhaps with essentially the same content rewritten with a UK-focus — but for now How to Be a Successful Internet Consultant is the sad recipient of a TOTAL INTERNET number 2...

Rating: 2/5

Author: Christian Crumlish
Publisher: Osborne/McGraw-Hill
ISBN: ISBN 0-07-882325-0
Cost: £17.99

The Internet for Busy People: Second Edition



Wow, colour overload! This is a great-looking book which uses colour on every page to great effect. With an almost magazine feel, it takes takes you from a 'Net newbie' to a 'Net not-so-newbie' via a set of fun, quick and authorative lessons.

The book first covers all of the basics of getting to grips with the Net (you know, the conceptual stuff), before launching into some of the more advanced features, such as plug-in based Web content and other Net services such as *Telnet* and *Gopher*. Throughout the book 'Expert Advice' boxes tell you genuinely useful things about how to make your on-line time more rewarding, and 'Definitions', 'Cautions' and 'Bookmarks' augment the text in a sensible and unobtrusive way.

As an introduction to the Internet it's excellent and as such it would be an ideal purchase for the family or for the office. The organisation of the material lends itself to dipping in when you have the time and therefore would suit those "busy people" mentioned in the the book's title. If only all Internet books were as well laid out and easy to read as this — it would make my life as a book reviewer easier for a start!

Rating: 4/5

Competition

WIN!
5 Copies of Book of the Month and a £100 voucher!

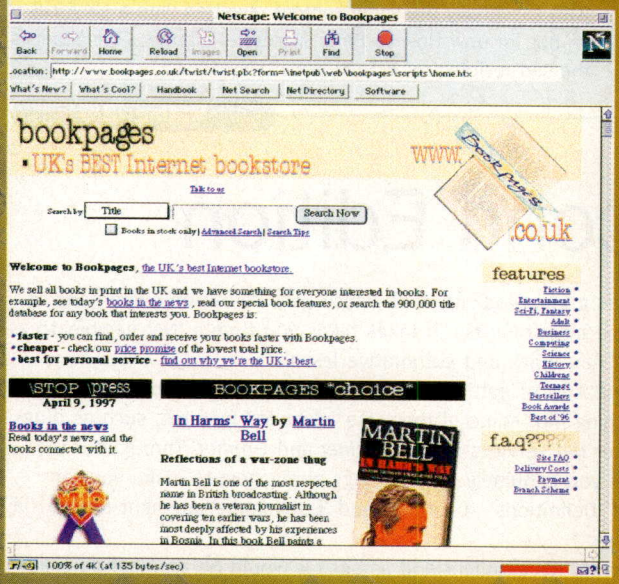
Get Yourself Some Free Books

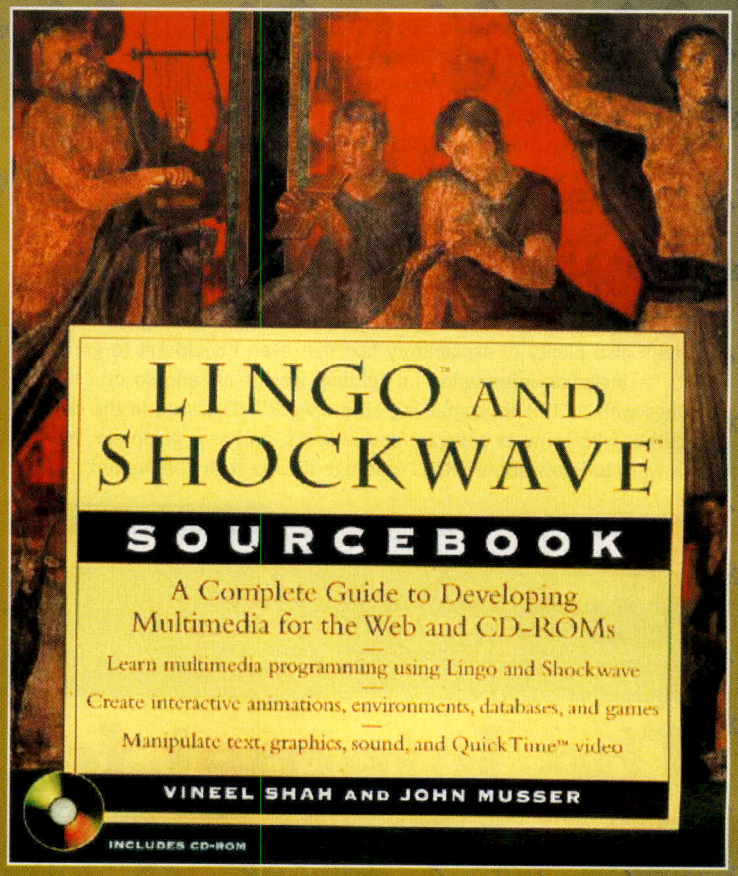
As promised last month, we're back again, thanks to *Bookpages*, to give away five copies of this issue's book of the month "Lingo & Shockwave Source Book" and one lucky winner will get themselves a £100 voucher to be spend at the *Bookpages* home page!

If you'd like to enter, to stand a chance of winning, just send an email to **comps@rapide.co.uk** with "Bookpages Competition" in the title of your message. This will enter you in our prize draw and if you're lucky enough to win, we'll then notify you by email. If you would like to enter via post then simply send your details on the back of a postcard to Bookpages Competition, TOTAL INTERNET, Rapide Publishing, 1 Roman Court, 48 New North Road, Exeter, EX4 4EP.

Closing date for entries is 6/6/97

Check out the Bookpages *home page, http://www.bookpages.co.uk.*





BOOKPAGES?

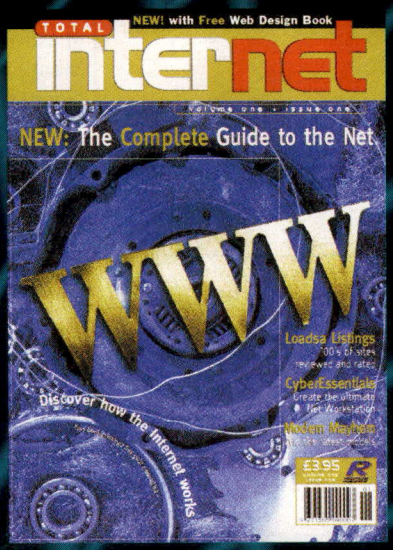
If you are in search of a book then *Bookpages* has a database of 900,000 titles, so they should have something you're looking for. The site has also just undergone a bit of a face-lift lately, so check out **http://www.bookpages.co.uk** for the new look site.

Most orders are dispatched within 48 hours, so you'll receive your orders quicker than something... very quick indeed.

Competition Rules

All entries must be by postcard, on the back of a sealed envelope or submitted by email to **comps@rapide.co.uk**. *Employees of Rapide Publishing and participating companies are strictly forbidden from entering. All entries must be received by the closing date supplied and only one entry per dwelling. The editor's decision is final. Winners will be notified by post.*

TOTAL internet Back Issues

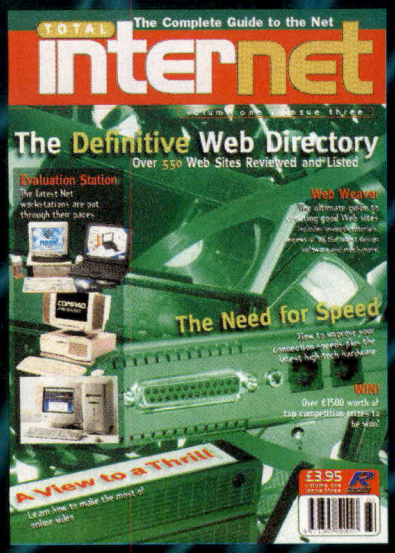


Issue One:

Packed with news, reviews, features and the biggest listings section in any monthly Net mag. Plus — free Web design book to make your site shine.

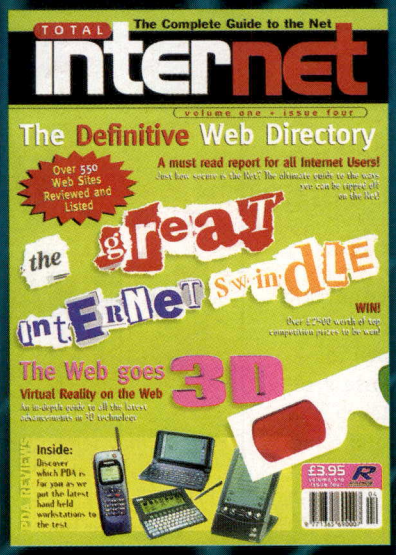
Issue Two:

Online broadcasting, Net sound, Cyber Essentials for serious Web users. Plus Web Weaver with tutorials and guides.



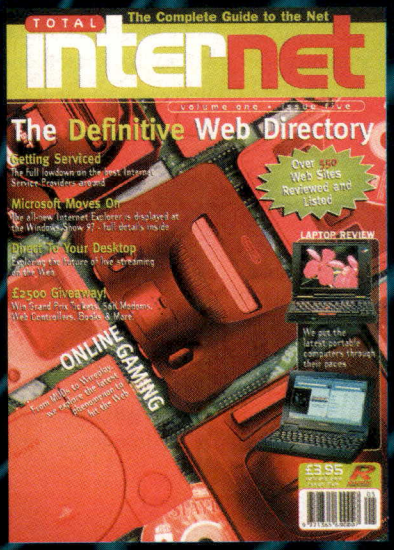
Issue Three:

More Web listings, features on faster connection times and online video, plus workstation reviews, design tips from Web Weaver.



Issue Four:

Over 550 sites reviewed, features on Net scams, a VRML special, part one of our JavaScript guide and more.



Issue Five:

First look at the new IE, streaming technology, online gaming special and a guide to the best and worst in ISPs.

Back Issues Order Form

Please send me ..... copy(s) of TOTAL INTERNET

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Prices / copies ordered (£4.95 per issue):

Issue One ..... Issue Two .....

Issue Three ..... Issue Four .....

Issue Five ..... Total Price: .....

METHOD OF PAYMENT

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❑ Postal Order *(made payable to Rapide Publishing)*

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CyberEssentials

We've got something for all of you in this month's Cyber Essentials. From mouse mats to digital recorders and cameras, you'll find it here.

CyberEssential: **The Flashback Mobile Office**
Company: **Sanyo Information Systems**
Contact: **0500 368080**
Price: **£399 + VAT**

Sound Good?

Do you own a home page and hope for an easier solution to getting your personal sounds onto it? Well, if you'd rather not connect up a microphone and load up software packages, then Sanyo have just released your ideal product — the Flashback mobile office, which comprises of the Flashback itself and the Voicelink. But what's it all about?

"Users can use it to record, fast forward, rewind and edit, all at the touch of a button"

Ever heard of dictation machines? Well, the Flashback is the digital version which saves the use of a tape. It weighs just 3oz, so it's very portable if you happen to need it when you're travelling around. Users can use it to record, fast forward, rewind and edit, all at the touch of a button. An automatic idle mode saves batteries and a lock off option prevents anything getting wiped accidentally. It can record up to 36 minutes of clear sound, which is then actually compressed and stored into the 2MB of flash Ram. After you've finished using it, you'll be wanting to connect it up to your PC and — as long as you've got a PCMCIA slot — that's where the Voicelink comes in to the picture. Simply plug it in and download the sound files to your PC. It only takes a few seconds and when it's finished you are able to send the sounds over a number of digital communication paths, such as the Internet and office computer networks.

If you like the sound of the Flashback mobile office and fancy getting hold of one yourself but instead of paying, want the opportunity to win one, then see page 102 for our competition. We're giving two readers the chance to get their hands on this new device.

CyberEssential: **MPP-2i Video Conferencing Camera**
Company: **Vivitar**
Contact: **01793 544824**
Price: **£250**

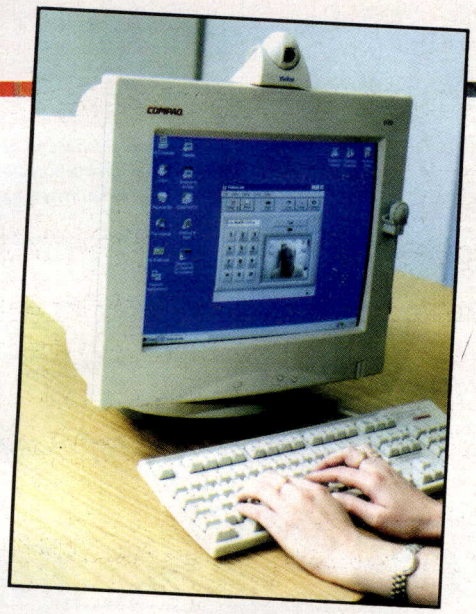
...With My Little Eye

You may remember that in Total Internet's very first issue, we had a look at the Colour Quickcam from Connetix. Since then more companies have been producing video conferencing equipment and Vivitar are the latest.

I once used one of these video cameras to speak to a friend in America and although the audio wouldn't work no matter how hard I tried, the image quality was so good, my friend got her picture published in the magazine as part of a Videoconferencing article. Things have moved on a bit though and now Vivitar have released their own new camera, the MPP 2i, a colour and fully Net-capable camera. It offers colour images with a refresh rate of 12.5 fps, and has a built in microphone.

SQUEAKY CLEAN SURFING

CyberEssential: **Mouse Pads**
Company: **Computer Expressions**
Contact: **http://www.compexpress.com/Catalog3.html**
Price: **Various**



"It plugs into the parallel port on any PC and then works automatically once you've installed the software"

It plugs into the parallel port on any PC and then works automatically, once you've installed the software. The resolution is 320x240 — which is pretty low (yet pretty normal for Videoconferencing hardware) but the colour range is 16.7 million, which is quite cool. It also has a wide 60 degree angle of vision and comes with a 'visual privacy shield' (whatever that is) for more private conversations. It comes with all of the necessary leads and whatnot, so you literally take it out of the box, plug it in, install the software and you'll be having conversations with your Internet chums within minutes.

Unfortunately, these cameras are pretty much pointless unless you have some kind of absurdly fast T3 connection to the Internet — a 28.k modem has no chance. Just think how fast *RealAudio* streams down a 28k modem — not very fast is it? Well, just imagine if it was pushing video too (like *RealVideo* does, actually). Not very impressive either, is it?

However, if you do have this magical connection, one of these cameras is a god send and a really fun/useful (delete as applicable) piece of kit too.

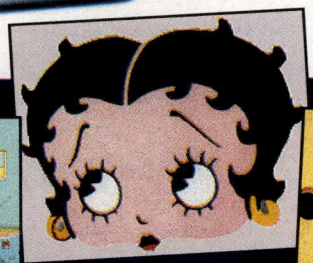
CyberEssential: **Vivicam 2000**
Company: **Vivitar**
Contact: **01793 544824**
Price: **£199**

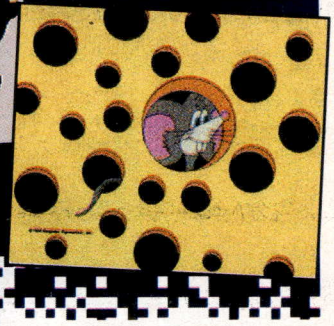
More **Digital Snaps**

We have featured many digital cameras in the past — indeed, we use them ourselves in the office. The latest contender to put themselves against the competitors is Vivitar, with their brand new Vivicam 2000, set at the bargain price of £199. It is capable (like all such cameras) of taking photographs without the need for a film, since it transfers the data into your PC. The press information fails to mention whether this is PC only, or whether it can also be used in conjunction with a Mac or Amiga but the software supplied is PC compatible only, in the form of *Photomaster*, which comes on a single CD. It's also best to have some third-party software handy if you want to retouch or edit your photos. The lens is a fixed focus f/2.8, which means that objects as close as 16.5cm will come out sharp, whilst the shutter speeds range from 1/65 to 1/16000sec. The resultant image is 24bit, with 16.7 million colours — there are also two modes; standard and Hi-Res, for those particularly good images! The Hi-Res shots are taken at 320x480 and the standard ones at 320x480. These aren't staggeringly high resolutions but they should suffice for most work, including Web authoring. Serious photographers may wish to look elsewhere though. The camera can hold 24 standard images, or for higher quality, 11 Hi-Res snaps can be stored. The images, once taken, can be exported as Jpegs, BMPs or TIFFs, where you can edit them as you like in *Photoshop*, *Paintshop Pro*, *Photogenics* or whatever else you might use. To be honest, you'd be better off buying a good camera and then scanning the photos if you want quality but the Vivicam 2000 is a perfectly capable replacement for the Polaroid camera.

"The camera can hold 24 standard images, or for higher quality, 11 Hi-Res snaps can be stored"

There are thousands of mouse mats to choose from these days and several companies have set up home pages selling such CyberEssentials. Computer Expressions have quite a few on offer and they vary from the typical X-File style pads, to more original double sided mats. So whether you want to slide your mouse up and down a Beavis & Butt-head or Betty Boop pad, there's a broad selection to choose from here.





Competition

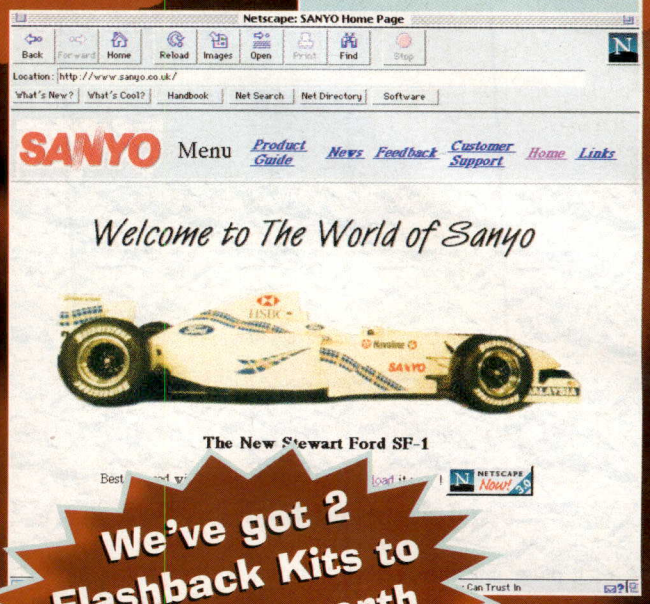
Record it in a Flash!

If you've been reading CyberEssentials, then you'll already know about this digital dictation machine named the Flashback. The Flashback mobile office is designed for PCs and digitally records up to 36 minutes, which is then compressed into 2MB of flash Ram. It's a complete productivity tool used for recording, transcribing and sending voice messages over the Internet. Now it's your chance to get your hands on one — we're giving two Flashback mobile offices away! As long as you have a lap-top or desktop computer with a PCMCIA slot, there's no reason why you shouldn't enter.

So, if you feel like recording a personal message and putting it on your home page, or sending it to your mates, then simply answer the question below and get your entry to us before the closing date. Entering can be done in two ways. The most popular of which is through our special competition email address. Send your message to comps@rapide.co.uk with 'Flashback Compo' in the subject line. Alternatively, post your entries the snail mail way — Flashback Compo, TOTAL INTERNET, Rapide Publishing, 1 Roman Court, 48 New North Road, Exeter, EX4 4EP.

Question: *What Does PCMCIA stand for?*

For more information on Sanyo's range of products, visit their home page at **http://www.sanyo.co.uk.**



We've got 2 Flashback Kits to give away, worth £800!

PRODUCT FEATURES

THE FLASHBACK — PORTABLE DIGITAL VOICE RECORDER

- Superior sound quality and variable speed playback
- Lightweight and portable — weighing less than 3 oz
- Simple ergonomic design with 2 button controls
- Instant record and playback of messages with volume control included
- Editing features allow inserting or deleting voice within specific messages
- Automatic idle mode conserves batteries and lock off option prevents accidental erasure

THE FLASHBACK VOICELINK — PC ADAPTOR

- Voicelink software designed to facilitate recording, importing and editing of 8:1 compressed voice files.
- Download up to 36 minutes of recordings from Flashback Soundclip onto hard drive in just a few seconds
- Hot keys enable playback and editing while in any *Windows* application software e.g. *Microsoft Word*
- Voice Files are stored with a unique name, date and time stamp for immediate identification
- Standard PCMCIA Type 11 card
- Runs on Standard *Windows* 3.X or *Windows 95* environments

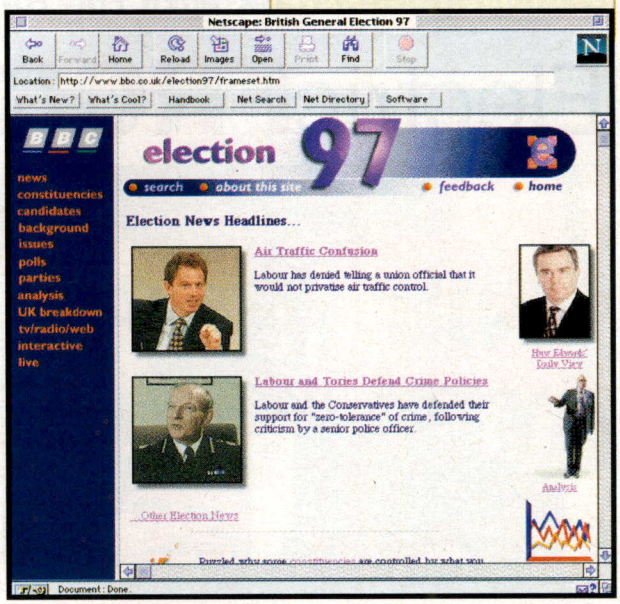
Competition Rules

All entries must be by postcard, on the back of a sealed envelope or submitted by email to comps@rapide.co.uk. Employees of Rapide Publishing and participating companies are strictly forbidden from entering. All entries must be received by the closing date supplied and only one entry per dwelling. The editor's decision is final. Winners will be notified by post.

The Internet's Election Hangover

Just how much did Net based info influence the Election? Sean Clark examines the Web's political role...

The BBC's election special section— all the facts, issues and manifestos you needed. And that Swingometer...



It feels a little odd writing my column this month! I say this because my main topic of discussion — the General Election — will actually be old news by the time you read these words. Either Tony Blair has achieved a historic victory for his New Labour party, or John Major has beaten the odds and secured yet another term for the Tories. I suppose that other options are possible. A hung parliament? Referendum Party victory? A national swing to the Monster Raving Loonies (slightly more likely than the Referendum Party option!)? No matter what the outcome though, one thing's for sure — everyone will agree that the Internet has played a unique part in this year's election process — and just before you trash those 'Election 97' bookmarks, the nature of this role is well worth pondering over.

It could be said that the multitude of General Election Web sites that appeared in the run-up to the polls were, in part, inspired by the successful use of the Net as an 'information tool' during the last US Presidential election. With labels like 'the most visited site ever" and so on being used in reference to US election sites, it's understandable that UK Web companies fancied a slice of this kind action during our election. It's my slightly cynical prediction then, that as well as (probably) a new government being in office by the time you read this, there will also be a host of press releases from UK companies claiming that their election sites saw "a phenomenal numbers of hits" and "had fantastic response". All great PR for the companies involved and no doubt useful fuel for the argument that the Internet has most definitely arrived. But behind the headlines, was there more to the UK's 'Internet Election' than an opportunity self-promotion by Internet-savy companies?

Well, yes, I think that there was. The General Election sites certainly gave those of us with access to them a very interesting way of looking at the issues being discussed by our would-be leaders. I for one found, for example, the BBC's site informative to the extent that even the concept of "swing" as used by Peter Snow was finally conveyed to me in a way I could understand! His interactive swingometer was most definitely one my election highlights. And the online polls? Well, they were probably wrong (!) but, hey, they're 'only meant to be fun' aren't they, as 'Snowy' would say.

Other things of interest? Well, I imagine that the smaller parties enjoyed the extra exposure equal Internet billing with the major parties gave them — where else but on the Net would you find mention of the Labour and Conservative parties together with The Legalise Cannabis Party, The Albion Party and The Third Way? And through the power of hot links, each party's manifesto is always just a simple click away.

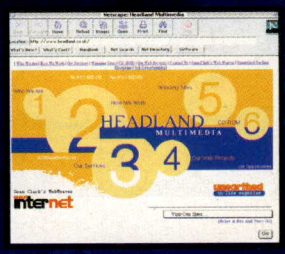
But could there be even more in store for us next election? After all, in five years time the use of the Net should be more widespread, the technology will be more advanced and — maybe — the government of the day will have ensured that the teaching of computer skills has been promoted to the same level as the 'three R's' — where it rightly should be.

Perhaps we will even be moving towards a situation where we have direct access to our elected 'representatives' via the Net and maybe we'll be able to vote for certain issues, via online polls?

It's a nice goal to have — 'Open Government' made real, via the use of computer networks. For this year though, we'll have to be content in the knowledge that, no matter who won, the Net played its part in the democratic process.

That's it, you can delete those bookmarks now...

Sean Clark is a professional Web designer with Headland Multimedia, with over seven years experience and clients including The Shamen, artist William Latham, plus various television companies. He is also Consultant Editor of TOTAL INTERNET and you can contact Sean at **seanc@headland.co.uk** and also visit his Web Weaver pages at **http://www.headland.co. uk/seanc.**



Internet Café Guide

Well, after a short break, our Cybercafe listing has returned. This month we take a closer look at two situated in Edinburgh, Scotland. If you have an Internet cafe and it's not listed then email paul@rapide.co.uk with the details.

ElectricFROG

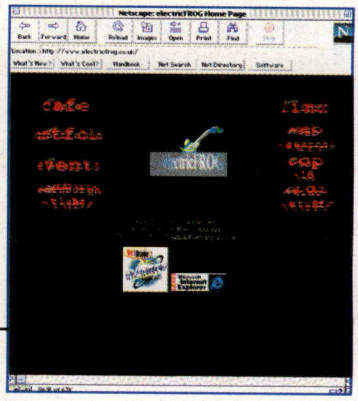
ElectricFROG may have a rather odd name but their Web site is pretty slick. They have some pretty smart machines in their café too – seven in all, six PCs and one Macintosh. They have their own *Windows NT* server (unlike some lame Internet Café where I once went – you had to connect to their ISP via a 14.4k modem to use it) which all the machines are networked to. All the normal Internet services are on offer such as email, Web browsing, Telnet, FTP and, if you're a newcomer to the whole Internet scene, then you might like to take advantage of one of their training courses. 15 minutes email costs £1.25 and 30 minutes for Web browsing and other Net services will set you back £2.50 or £2.00 for students and those who are unemployed. Mail box rental is set at £1 per week.

If you need any more information then we highly recommend their Web page, which contains all of the relevant information. Top stuff.

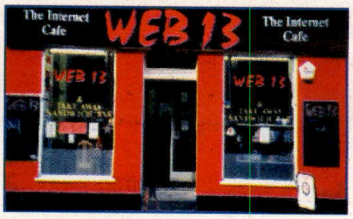
Facts at a Glance

ElectricFROG
admin@mail.electricfrog.co.uk
http://www.electricfrog.co.uk/
42-44 Cockburn Street, Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 226 1505

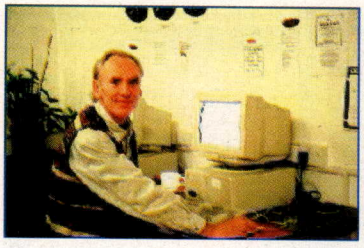
Web 13
queries@web13.co.uk
http://www.Web13.co.uk
13 Bread Street, Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 2298883



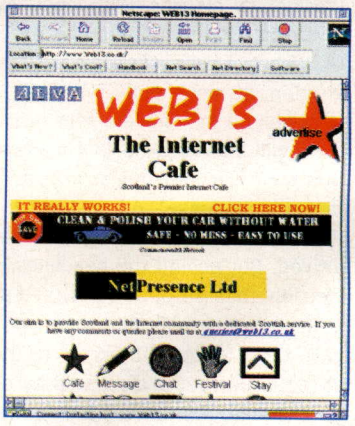
Web 13



If you live in the Edinburgh, then Web 13 is another Internet café you could opt for. They claim to be the premier Internet Café in Edinburgh, and boast 11 *Wing5* PCs, and a wide variety of services, including Web browsing, email, FTP and Telnet. Membership brings additional bonuses, including a reduced rate. The prices are £4 per hour or £3 if you're a member. Old age pensioners who are wishing to surf the superhighway can get online for £3.50. Web 13 also provide Web hosting services, so if you want to make your mark on the Net then this is the place to visit.



They open at 9am and shut up shop at 8pm on normal weekdays. On Saturday they close at 6pm, and Sunday hours are 12pm to 6pm. If you live in Edinburgh, we'd advise that you pop in for coffee and a spod. Their Web site contains most of the additional information that you might need to know.



Café Update

The Cyberia Café in Whitfield Street, London is currently exhibiting the work of Hannah Gal, a famous computer artist. The exhibition can even be viewed on the Web. So for that or just more information visit their home page at http://channel.cyberiacafe.net.

If you would like your Cybercafé to be included in a future Total Internet guide, or you would like it listed on the opposite page, let us know. Simply email paul@rapide.co.uk with the details.

Name and address	Telephone	Email Address
ASHINGTON		
Oasis, The Coffee House, 4 Myrtel st	(01670) 521 702	oasis@oasis.netexpress.co.uk
BELFAST		
Bytes, Morglen Gardens, Turf Lodge	(01232) 749 955	bytes@worknet.thegap.com
Revelations, 27 Shaftesbury Square	(01232) 320 337	info@revelations.co.uk
BIRMINGHAM		
Café Surf, The Arcadian, Hurst St	(0121) 622 4010	info@cafesurf.co.uk
Custard Factory, Gibb St	(0121) 604 7777	connected@custard.co.uk
Sputnik, Temple St	(0121) 643 0426	sputnik@custard.co.uk
BLACKPOOL		
Cybernet, South Promenade, St Annes	(01253) 724 000	cybernet@cyberscape.co.uk
BRIGHTON		
Cybar, 9-12 Middle St	(01273) 707 900	info@cybar.co.uk
BRISTOL		
NetGates, 51 Broad St	(0117) 907 4000	cafe@netgates.co.uk
BURY ST EDMUNDS		
Garland Cafe, 4 Garland St	(01284) 753 373	garland_cafe@post.dungeon.com
CAMBRIDGE		
CB1, 32 Mill Rd	(01223) 576 306	sturdy@CB1.com
CANTERBURY		
Chaucer Cyberspace, Spring Lane	(01227) 763 636	derek@mail.chaucer.ac.uk
CARDIFF		
Cardiff Cybercafé, 9 Duke St	(01222) 235 757	pauls@cardiffcybercafe.co.uk
Grassroots Cybercafé, 58 Charles St	(01222) 231 700	cafe@ccyp.celtic.co.uk
CHELTENHAM		
Cyber Gallery, 15 Clarence Parade	(01242) 262 694	everyone@cybergallery.co.uk
CRAWLEY		
Tiny Computers' Internet Café	(01293) 619 925	ifacb@pncl.co.uk
CROYDON		
Cyberzone, 1 Dingwall Rd	(0181) 681 6500	zone1@cyberzone.co.uk
DARLINGTON		
Beiderbeckes, 30-32 Bondgate	(01325) 282 675	wired@beiderbeckes.co.uk
DUBLIN		
Internet Exchange, Lower Stephens St	(00 353) 14758788	cafe@intex.ie
EDINBURGH		
Cyberia, 88 Hanover St	(0131) 220 4403	edinburgh@easynet.co.uk
electricFROG, 42-44 Cockburn St	(0131) 226 1505	admin@electricfrog.co.uk
Hog's Head, 62 South Clerk St	(0131) 667 574	tv-eye@easynet.co.uk
Web13, 13 Bread St	(0131) 229 8883	queries@presence.co.uk
EXETER		
Internet Express Web Café	(01392) 201 544	cafe@mail.InXpress.co.uk
GATESHEAD		
Design Works, William St, Felling	(0191) 495 0066	nickoliver@aol.com
GLASGOW		
The Internet Café, 239 North St	(0141) 221 8447	tim@linkcafe.co.uk
GREAT YARMOUTH		
The Internet Café, 145A King St	(01493) 856 523	tom@comdoc.demon.co.uk
GREENOCK		
Café Roslin, Dalrymple St	(01475) 730 576	roslin@easynet.co.uk
GRIMSBY		
Webgate, 7 East St. Mary's Gate	(01472) 269 769	info@webgate.co.uk
GUILDFORD		
CaféNet, 2-3 Phoenix Court	(01483) 451 945	cafenet@cafenet.co.uk
Quarks, 7 Jeffries Passage	(01483) 451 166	nick@quarks.co.uk
GLOUCESTER		
Icon.net Intercafe, 124-126 Barton St	(01452) 307 049	kab15@dial.pipex.com
HARLOW		
Cyberdine, Market Square	(01279) 423 910	newstem@btlip23.bt.co.uk
HARROW		
The Edge, St George's Centre	(0181) 424 2427	info@the-edge.ha1.com
Get Surfed!, 4-6 Peterborough Rd	(0181) 426 4446	bindu@getsurfed.co.uk
HEBDEN BRIDGE		
2nd Byte Cybercentre, Bridge Mill		secondbyte@dial.pipex.com
HITCHIN		
Garden CityNet, Parc Computers	(01462) 434 082	parc@gardencitynet.
HUDDERSFIELD		
Windows on the World, Kirklees Centre	(01484) 431 289	mediacentre@inin.co.uk
HULL		
Net 21, 15 Savile St	(01482) 322 488	kevin@net21.co.uk
IPSWICH		
Global Net-Café, 28 Tacket St	(01473) 215 225	globalcafeI@clubuk.co.uk
KINGSTON-ON-THAMES		
Cyberia, 48 High St	(0181) 974 9650	kingston@easynet.co.uk
LEEDS		
@the café, 6-8 Chapel Pl, Headingley	(0113) 294 4270	stuart@thecafe.co.uk
Planet Connect, 5-5a Cross Belgrave St	(0113) 297 0040	heyup@planetconnect.co.uk
LEICESTER		
Environ, The Ark, 2-4 St Martins Sq	(0116) 233 9660	ravi@ark.org
LIVERPOOL		
Café Internet, 28 North John St	(0151) 255 1112	info@cafeliv.u-net.com
LONDON		
Backspace, Clink St	(0171) 378 1011	info@backspace.org
Buzz Bar, 97 Portobello Rd	(0171) 727 7898	info@buzzbar.co.uk
Café Internet, 22 Buckingham Palace Rd	(0171) 233 5786	cafe@cafeinternet.co.uk
Cyberia, 39 Whitfield St	(0171) 209 0982	cyberia@easynet.co.uk
Cyberia Ealing, 73 New Broadway	(0181) 840 3131	ealing@cyberiacafe.net
Microplay Games, 165 Ballards lane	(0181) 371 0422	netsurf@microply.demon.co.uk
Network City, Marylebone High St	(0171) 224 4400	nc@networkcity.co.uk
Spidercafé, 195 Portobello Rd	(0171)229 2990	gavin@spidercafe.co.uk
Surf.net Café, 13 Deptford Church St	(0181) 488 1200	surfnet@dircon.co.uk
The Vibe Bar, 91 Brick Lane	(0171) 247 2406	info@hyena.co.uk
LUTON		
Hard Drive Cafe, 16 King St	(01582) 485621	JW@HardCafe.co.uk
MARLBOROUGH		
Aspen Internet, Hughendon Yard	(01672) 511 388	shop@aspen-internet.net
MANCHESTER		
Cyberia, 12 Oxford St	(0161) 236 6300	manchester@cyberiacafe.net
Kaleida, 448 Wilmslow Rd	(0161) 291 1525	office@kscope.u-net.com
Wet, Dry Bar, 28 Oldham St	(0161) 236 5920	dry@wet.u-net.com
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE		
Internet Suite, Orbit 3 Games Park	(0191) 232 5377	orbit3-internetcafe@dial.pipex.com
NORTHAMPTON		
Leisure Video, 21 High Street, Thrapston	(01832) 735 202	scanners@easynet.co.uk
NOTTINGHAM		
Cyberpub, 5 Victoria Centre	(0115) 947 5394	NTM00001@cyberpub.adr.co.uk
ORPINGTON		
Electr@net Cafe, 316 High St	(01689) 877 878	administrator@electranet.com
OXFORD		
The Internet Centre, 193 Cowley Rd	(01865) 295 066	angle@mail.cts-group.co.uk
PETERBOROUGH		
Club Internet, 67-69 Mayors Walk	(01733) 759 000	clubnet@easynet.co.uk
PRESTON		
The Cybercentre, 16 Moor Lane	(01772) 888 188	preston@cybercentre.co.uk
READING		
Caversham Emporium, 10 Bridge St	(01734) 462 175	jo02@dial.pipex.com
ROMFORD		
Global Net-Café, 70-72 South St	(01708) 728 139	globalcafe@clubuk.co.uk
SHAFTESBURY		
Shaftesbury Cyber Café, Salisbury St	(01747) 853 031	stella@wessex.co.uk
SHEFFIELD		
Elektra, 19 Westfield Terrace	(0114) 270 1171	webmaster@elektra-cafe.co.uk
Punters, 111 Arundel St	(0114) 276 2668	webmaster@mail.punters.co.uk
SOUTHAMPTON		
Cyberscone, 75 Bedford Place	(01703) 635 429	pagles@aladdin.co.uk
ST HELIER, JERSEY		
Mighty Mouse Internet Café	(01534) 625 066	themouse@itl.net
ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGSHIRE		
The Internet Experience, 11 Fishers Yard	(01480) 386 836	experience@intecc.co.uk
STOCKPORT		
Peak Art Cybercafé, 30 Market St	(01663) 747 770	peak@artcybercafe.cityscape.co.uk
The Net, Maestro House	(0161) 439 0610	info@the-net.u-net.com
STORNOWAY, WESTERN ISLES		
Captions, 27 Church St	(01851) 702 238	bayble@captions.co.uk
SWANSEA		
Cyber Stop Internet Café, Portland St	(01792) 465 050	internet@cyberstop.net
TAUNTON		
Taunton Cyber, 27 North St	(01823) 353 771	info@abling.co.uk
WARRINGTON		
Talk 101, 101 Buttermarket St	(01925) 245 145	info@mail.talk-101.com
WESTON SUPER MARE		
Cybercity, 26 Meadow St	(01934) 418 888	data@cybercity.co.uk
WOLVERHAMPTON		
The Molineux Cyber Bar	(01902) 651 111	info@mbcis.co.uk

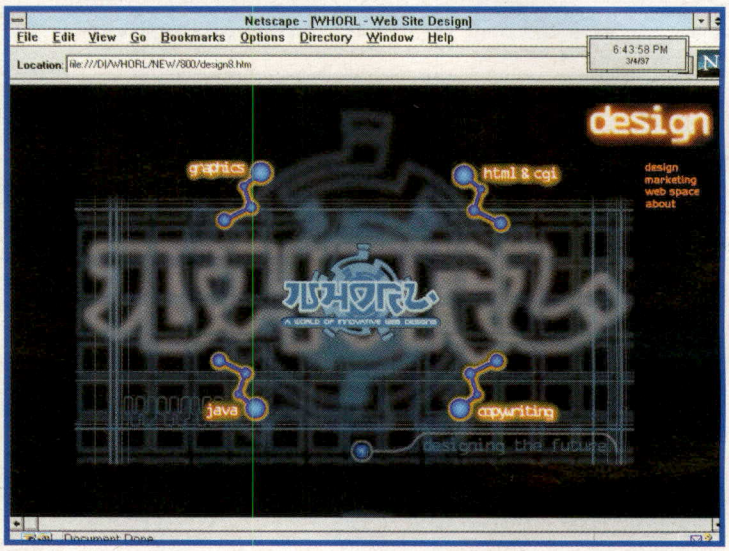
Can We Talk?

With Net privacy a recent hot topic, Gareth Lancaster discusses the existence of anonymity on the Web and asks — who're you talking to?

If you read my comment in last month's TOTAL INTERNET, you'd be forgiven for thinking that a few web designers around the world took my criticisms a little too seriously. Then again, maybe not. But the story that's recently been in the news, does bring bubbling to the surface something that comments on a facet of the Internet that is both a strength and a weakness in this wired age. That subject is anonymity. Now, not wishing to put any seeds of doubt in the minds of the editorial team of TOTAL INTERNET or indeed of you reading this article but here I am, having written about the Internet for a number of years and at no time has any editor ever met me face to face — the only contact coming through the telephone or via email. They don't even know what I look like. Now there aren't many fields where this would happen but it is a peculiarity of the Internet that is interesting to observe. We surf sites run by people we don't know, or will never meet and ninety-nine percent of the time, it never occurs to us that it should matter. We are, quite frankly, already so used to this in built shroud that we readily accept it, where in other parts of our lives we would be more cynical. We talk to people more openly on the Internet, we ask advice of them and we offer our own advice in return, and most of the time nobody questions our input. It is a freeway of information that is solely created from an inherent, blind secrecy. In plain terms it sounds like a paradox — but there are very good reasons why this phenomenon occurs.

Every time you talk to someone on the Internet, you have already dropped your own conceptions and removed your safe guards concerning who you would ordinarily converse with in a face to face conversation.

Now I'm not a psychologist but to me, it seems obvious why an instant lowering of barriers occurs when we surf the Net. It is simply easier to talk to people we don't know, as we have no pre conceptions as to how they will react. On the whole, because there is this openness born from secrecy, we tend to be less defensive or judgmental and more open. Most of you probably don't realise it but every time you talk



to someone on the Internet you have already dropped your own conceptions and removed your safe guards concerning who you would ordinarily converse with, in a face to face conversation. Normally on the Internet we do not see the other participant(s) so our visual filters are gone and we know little or nothing about the other's past or present situation, so our social filters are also washed away. All in all, the Internet is a great leveller and everybody can communicate on an equal footing, for the most part without fear or prejudice.

Of course there are those that use these powers of secrecy to cause havoc, to mess around or to annoy people. Unfortunately we can't have it both ways; users of IRC will know exactly what I mean here. Also, it is very easy to get carried away with the free flow of information. It is all too easy to accept everything at face value and to question nothing. But that's where it is up to our own common sense and understanding to force some constraints and reasoning.

It's funny but we have accepted this altered playing field of social interaction very easily, as if it was normal and commonplace but before the Internet, unless you used a CB, it would have seemed absurd to the majority. There are those who still say that the net removes our ability to socially interact in the real world but I don't subscribe to that point of view. I prefer to see it as having changed the rules of social interaction, altering what we would normally conceive as communicating; open dialogue on a global scale if you will. If anything our interaction with our peers and contemporaries has evolved, not devolved. We can speak to anybody we want to, strike friendships with people we'll probably never meet and cross boundaries of culture and race. If this is counted as losing our ability to communicate in the real world, then I'm all for opting out.

Gareth Lancaster, **gareth@vick.demon.co.uk**, is an experienced Internet journalist and Web designer. Check out his Web site at **http://www.whorl.uk.com.**

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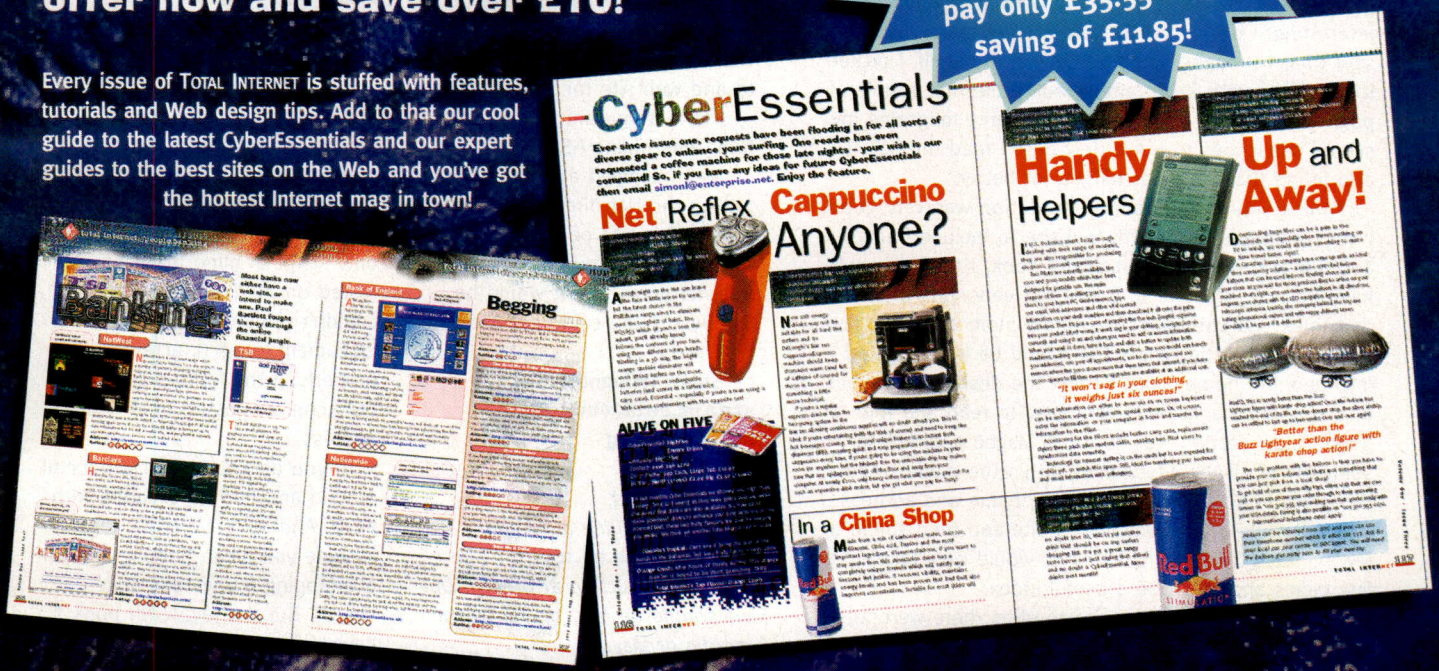

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Letters

Winner of a Year's Subscription

Very Good Show Old Bean!!!

Dear TOTAL INTERNET,

Hi there. I just thought I would write to say how good I thought your first issue of TOTAL INTERNET was.

I was at Reading train station and had a couple of minutes to spare. I popped inside the shop there to pick up a magazine but could not find any very interesting. I decided to get an Internet magazine as I saw what I thought was 'Internet' on the shelf, I picked it up and bought it but after reading the first couple of pages I realised that it was not the same magazine my school subscribes to but a new one. I read through it and found that it was actually a lot better.

I think your Web Weaver first section was very good. I am currently updating my website to include frames and although I knew most of the book, I think it would have helped someone who was not very sure, a lot!

I think you should include some more advanced Java functions and little scripts that could be implemented into people's homepages. I think the design and layout of the whole magazine is very easy to read and the 'Web Guide' section was spot on. Maybe a complete summary of all the sites listed within the guide could be listed, in a table just displaying name and address.

I will quite often remember a site and then spend a few minutes trying to find it. This would only take up a few pages and could be a useful index.

The news section was very good as there were lots of short news articles and a wide range. This allows people to keep up to date without having to get too involved — very good if you have limited money!!!

Once again, I was very pleased to have accidentally come across your magazine and will be buying further copies. I think you have created a very good, very full magazine and hope it will continue to be as good in further issues.

Jonathan Lee
101513.71@compuserve.com

PS. I have also entered your two competitions and like the emailable entry!!

Dear Jonathan,

Well, what can we say, except thanks for the compliments — and for the ideas too! Keep an eye on our Web Pages for new indexes and lists of sites visited.

That goes for everyone, and don't forget to visit us at **www.rapide.co.uk**, *because we get lonely.*

Letter of the Month

Gary Joyce tackles your questions once more and accepts a few pats on the back...

Suggestions on life On-line

Dear TOTAL INTERNET,

First off may I congratulate you on your most excellent mag:-

Now, I was surprised that I was unable to find any reference to and web site for TOTAL INTERNET — I take it you are planning to bring one online ASAP?

May I suggest also that you put up the Net directory online as well, as it's one of the best directories I've found in any Internet magazine. It would be the best if you could get it online.

Cheers

Stuart (Wingnut) Reid.
stuart.reid@bc200.britcoun.org

Dear Stuart,

Visit us online at **http://www.rapide.co.uk**, *the site is under construction at present but we should be fully online by the middle of May.*

Javascript

Dear TOTAL INTERNET

I am Emailing you to complain about one of your articles in TOTAL INTERNET. It was discussing the browser wars, and it said "However, *Explorer* does add some extra HTML tags and some extra Java script functionality — but these aren't supported by *Netscape Navigator*..."

How can you be so mistaken? *Netscape* supports all possible *Javascript* functionality. This is because it made *Javascript* (yes, it is all one word).

I would prefer it if you would go to comp.lang.javascript first and post a message asking for feedback — and I bet that at least 80% of the feedback would support *Netscape*. Also, it is not possible for Microsoft *Internet Explorer* to have more functions in *Javascript* because anything it makes is not *Javascript* unless *Netscape* supports it because, as I said earlier, *Netscape* made *Javascript* and is continuing.

I am an avid *Javascript* programmer and a member of the inquiry.com javascript mailing list and it has been said several times, without any objection, that people's scripts are working on *Netscape 3.0* but not on *MSIE 3.0* and I find this to be true. The only script of mine that I have tested on *MSIE* failed because it couldn't change the 'document.forms[1]. action' property, if the form is sent to a CGI script or posted to an email address.

If you do not agree I will email around and find other faults with *MSIE*. And by 'extra HTML tags' I assume you mean floating and overlapping frames and style sheets. But the *Javascript* book I have points out the following

"event handlers don't seem to work properly, data tainting and dynamic images have not been implemented, the Java/*Javascript* connection feature (*LiveConnect*) is not implemented, any very complicated *Javascript* application is likely to have problems, at least for now" and shows the example that when you move your mouse over a link ,it won't trigger any commands specified in the 'onMouseOver' attribute of the link, like it would in *Netscape*.

One of the most widespread uses of *Javascript* is displaying a message on the status bar when the mouse is put over a link and as this is not supported, sites like **www.said.com** won't work as they were intended to.

I hope you will print an apology in the next issue, as the difference between 200 people seeing a review with *MSIE* the

winner and 200 people seeing a review with *Netscape* the winner is definitely a lot.

Yours vehemently,

Owen Jones

106165.3424@compuserve.com

Dear Owen,

This mail has been redirected several times but I said I'd reply, even though it's several months since you sent it.

I agree with you that the article was incorrect in what it stated with regards Javascript *and* IE3, *and we at* TOTAL INTERNET *apologise unreservedly for that error.*

There are bugs in IE3 *version 3.0 with regards to* Javascript, *whereby anyone who upgraded to the full version of* IE3.0 *from the beta version has several java.classes missing from their system. Microsoft now know about these errors and anyone still persistently getting script errors during runtime on* IE3 *should visit the Microsoft Homepage for the latest bug fixes and security updates.*

The latest version of IE3.01 *seems to run* Javascript *without problems and I haven't noticed any problems in my own setup since installing the upgrade. That said, I've also installed full* Javascript *capabilities to my home PC, so I don't suppose I'd notice any missing classes, since I now have them all in about four different places on my hard drive.*

As to the war between the browsers, I now feel that the browser you choose is really a matter of personal choice. I use Netscape Gold 3 *at work and* IE3 *at home, and I personally prefer the 'look and feel' of* IE3, *but that's purely a matter of taste...*

Poor old Pentium

Dear TOTAL INTERNET,

Oh dear, oh dear. The new Intel advert is terrible! Why have Intel never advertised the Pentium on its own qualities and not on the Internet and with certain multimedia CD's.

"Oh a Pentium can get me on the internet! I must have one!". A 386 or a 486 can get on the Internet and run the software without any problems.

I know Macintosh machines are better than PCs and I am sure you know it too, even if you don't admit it. A PowerPC chip is faster on the same clock speed so why don't Apple advertise this? An average Mac also has around 3x the screen resolution of a PC, allowing for far better graphics in most games!

Again, Apple should say "Oi, Great British public, *Windows* is rubbish, the Pentium has poor architecture, DOS is the operating system from hell and PC screen resolutions are similar to the resolutions on pocket calculators!"

I suppose they could be taken to court but it is honest and it would be effective!

As far as I can see, the only thing the PC has going for it over the Macintosh is the software availability, which is now changing. I give you HMV in London and HMV in Glasgow...

Virgin Megastores are also carrying an increasing number of Mac games.

Well I hope you have bothered to read my controversial but honest views.

Fraser Stewart

fs@jlstewart.demon.co.uk

Dear Fraser,

There, not only have we read your views, but so has everyone else! I would agree with you with regards the Pentium adverts. Let's face it — trying to get people interested in your product by advertising Hawaii, or the possibilities of being online for several weeks playing virtual Monopoly with some other saddo with no friends, is not really much of a product placement achievement.

With regards to your opinion of the PowerPC chipset versus the Pentium, again, you are right but let's face it — you pay for what you get and an 8500/180 or 9500/200 is out of most people's price range and, frankly, is way more than they need anyway. A Mac is a powerful tool, but do people really need that for home use?

The average PC now has 800x600 SVGA or higher resolution and the latest Windows 95 *release offers support for higher resolutions at 32-bit high colour, so the difference you mention doesn't really exist anymore, especially since 17-inch monitor prices are coming down, so that more people can expand their display properties...*

I also disagree with you on Windows... *Granted, Windows 3.1 or below is rubbish, but* Windows 95 *and NT are great (now all the bugs are out), and* Memphis *will be even better... Macs have the best hardware but I think the future of software lies in PCs.*

Regarding games — we all play them but if that's all you're into, then even buying a PC is stupid. Far better to spend a couple of hundred on a console than a couple of thousand on a machine which you'll never even use to its full potential.

Search Engines

Dear TOTAL INTERNET

Please can you help with the design of a home page. I want it to respond to particular key words used in search engines. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to be as simple as putting these words into the title. How do search engines really work?

Pete Morgan

Truro, Cornwall

Dear Pete,

Most search engines now search for results by using the META tags within the HTML.

You need to insert something along the lines of the following: ‹META name="Keywords" CONTENT="your keywords"› which should get the results you're looking for.

Gary's In-box is full to overflowing with the letters you've been sending and we'll be expanding the Letters section to four pages next month, in order to give more space to your opinions and questions. Please keep those letters flooding in, since Gary likes to be kept busy and your letters are a welcome diversion from his real work...

Send your letters to Gary Joyce, TOTAL INTERNET Magazine, Rapide Publishing, 14a Union Street, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2JS, or Fax on 01626 51484 or email garyjoyce@rapide.co.uk.

Service Providers

Welcome to the TOTAL INTERNET directory of Internet Service Providers. We have attempted to contact and include every company in the UK, so have a look for one that's relevant to your area and give them a call.

If your ISP isn't listed in our directory, or the details are incorrect, telephone, fax or email Paul Bartlett, paul@rapide.co.uk. We cannot always guarantee your immediate inclusion, due to deadlines etc, but we will use your details as soon as possible.

You may be looking for your first ever Service Provider (ISP) or thinking it's time for a change from the company you're with. Whatever the reason for perusing these pages, it's worth making a detailed study of the deals on offer. At the end of the day it's hard earned cash you're parting with, so don't be afraid to shop around and try a few ISPs for size before making your final decision.

Remember to look into the whole deal on offer. The majority of ISPs allow you to rent space on their Web server, to store your own Web site and pages — find out the details of this, such as initial set-up costs, price per 5Mb rented, minimum space allowed, how much it costs to have your own domain etc. It's also worth finding out the maximum bandwidth they offer, which is a rough guide to how simple it will be to dial in, especially during peak hours. Finally, the cheapest deal financially, may not always provide the strongest technical support for example, so consider all the angles before coming to a final decision.

Our comprehensive directory is here to make this task that little bit easier. We provide you with the name of the provider, the ways you can get in touch with them (email, telephone, World Wide Web) and the cost of connecting via this ISP. If you're not sure of any details ring the company first or check their Web site.

NAME	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	WEB SITE	CHARGE PER MONTH
@pobox.co.uk	(0990) 168 160	info@pobox	www.pobox.co.uk	£10
AAP Internet	(0181) 427 1166	sales@aapi.co.uk	www.aapi.co.uk	£8.51
Abel Internet	(0131) 445 5554	info@abel.net.uk	www.abel.net.uk	£7.99
Abling.Co.UK	(01823) 353 771	info@abling.co.uk	www.abling.co.uk	£9.95
ACE	(01670) 528204	info@ace.co.uk	www.ace.co.uk	£10
Airtime Internet Resources	(01254) 676 921	sales@airtime.co.uk	www.airtime.co.uk	from £10
Almac	(01324) 666 336	info@almac.net.uk	www.almac.net.uk	from £5
Amity Internet	(0500) 200 171	info@amity.co.uk	www.amity.co.uk	£10
Andover On-Line	(01624) 334 822	info@andover.co.uk	www.andover.co.uk	£12
Anglianet	(01473) 211 922	sales@anglianet.co.uk	www.anglianet.co.uk/anglianet	£10
AOL	(0800) 279 1234	queryuk@aol.com	www.aol.com	£5.95
Aspen Internet	(01672) 511 388	admin@aspen-internet.net	www.aspen-internet.uk	£12
Athene Internet	(01329) 828 000	jdyer@athene.co.uk	www.athene.co.uk	£10
Atlas	(0171) 312 0400	info@atlas.co.uk	www.atlas.co.uk	£12
Avel Pip	(01752) 600 101	info@avel.co.uk	www.avel.com	£12.50
Aviators Network	(01727) 868 468	info@avnet.co.uk	www.avnet.co.uk	£10
Baynet	(01222) 486 401	enq@baynet.co.uk	www.baynet.co.uk	from £10
Bogomip	(0800) 137 536	info@mail.bogo.co.uk	www.bogo.co.uk.www	£12
Bournemouth Internet	(01202) 292 900	office@bournemouth-net.co.uk	www.bournemouth-net.co.uk	from £10
Brunel Internet	(01922) 598090	sales@brunel.co.ukbrunel.html	www.brunel.co.uk/	£12.50
BT Internet	(0800) 800 001	sales@btinternet.com	www.btinternet.com	£15
BusinessNet	(01252) 318 707	sales@businessnet.co.uk	www.businessnet.co.uk	£100 ISDN
Byson Computers	(01635) 869 480	Ian@Byson.demon.co.uk	www.hiyway.co.uk/~byson	£15
Cable Online	N/A	webmaster@cableol.net	http://www.cableol.net	£12.95
CableNet	(01424) 830 700	info@cablenet.net	www.cablenet.net/cablenet	£14.75
Cacoon Internet Services	(0171) 831 7704	admin@cocoon.co.uk	www.cocoon.co.uk	£15
Cerbernet	(0171) 360 8000	sales@cerbernet.co.uk	www.cerbernet.co.uk	£12
City Netgates	(0117) 907 4000	info@netgates.co.uk	www.netgates.co.uk	from £9.79
CityScape Global Media	(01223) 566 950	sales@cityscape.co.uk	www.cityscape.co.uk	£15
CIX	(0181) 296 9666	sales@compulink.co.uk	www.compulink.co.uk	£15
Colloquium	(0141) 849 0849	smith_j@cqm.co.uk	www.colloquium.co.uk/	£12
Compuserve	(0800) 289 378	70006.101@compuserve.com	www.compuserve.com	£6.50
Cybase	(0151) 227 4244	sales@mail.cybase.co.uk	www.cybase.co.uk	£10
CYBERphile Internet	(01543) 454 840	info@cyberphile.co.uk	www.cyberphile.co.uk	£9.99
Cygnet Internet Services	(0181) 880 4650	info@cygnet.co.uk	www.cygnet.co.uk	£8
Darian Technologies	(0121) 693 5606	darian@custard.co.uk	www.custard.co.uk	£50

NAME	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	WEB SITE	CHARGE PER MONTH
Dean Software	(01978) 311 044	info@deansoft.celtic.co.uk	www.deansoft.com	£10
Delphi Internet	(GNS) (0171) 757 7080	ukservice@delphi.com	www.delphi.com	£10
Demon Internet	(0181) 371 1234	sales@demon.co.uk	www.demon.co.uk	£10
Direct Connection	(0181) 297 2200	sales@dircon.co.uk	www.dircon.co.uk	£13.50 per month (inc VAT)
Direct Net Access	(01232) 330 311	info@dnet.co.uk	www.dnet.co.uk	£10
Discover	(01203) 364 400	invent@dicover.co.uk	www.discover.co.uk	£10
Domino Systems	(01865) 391 111	sales@domino.com	www.domino.com	£10
Dorset Internet	(01202) 659 991	sales@ids.co.uk	www.ids.co.uk	£14.99
Easynet	(0171) 681 4444	admin@easynet.co.uk	www.easynet.co.uk	£9.90
Easinet Ltd	(0115) 946 9930	sales@easinet.co.uk	N/A	£10
Eclipse Networking	(01392) 424 440	eclipse@eclipse.co.uk	www.eclipse.co.uk	£8
ednet	(0131) 466 7003	info@ednet.co.uk	www.ednet.co.uk	£10
ElectricMail	(01223) 501 333	info@elmail.co.uk	www.elmail.co.uk	n/a
Emerald Internet Services	(01232) 311 022	info@emeraldni.co.uk	www.emeraldni.co.uk	£15
Entanet	(0500) 368 2638	james@enta.net	www.enta.net	£9
Enterprise	(01624) 677 666	sales@enterprise.net	www.enterprise.net	£8
Epinet	(01242) 821 000	sales@epinet.co.uk	www.epinet.co.uk	£12.50
Europe Online	(0800) 106 610	info@Europeonline.com	www.Europeonline.com	from £3.95
Fast-Net Developments	(0161) 291 8338	sales@fast-net.co.uk	www.fast-net.co.uk	£12.50
FastNet International	(01273) 677 633	info@fastnet.co.uk	www.fastnet.co.uk	£30/quarter
Fenetre	(01538) 398 298	sales@fentre.co.uk	www.fentre.co.uk	£8
FirstNet Services	(0113) 294 4224	sales@firstnet.co.uk	www.firstnet.co.uk	£12.50
FlexNet	(01638) 711550	sales@flexnet.net	www.flexnet.co.uk	£10
Foobar Internet	(0116) 233 0033	sales@foobar.co.uk	www.foobar.co.uk	£10
Foremost Training	(0141) 566 6377	sales@scotnet.co.uk	www.scotnet.co.uk	£10
Freeway Internet	(01204) 431 313	sales@freeway.co.uk	www.freeway.co.uk	£139.95/yr
Frontier Internet Services	(0171) 242 3383	info@ftech.net	www.ftech.net	£10
Garden CityNet	(01462) 485 624	info@gardencitynet.co.uk	www.gardencitynet.co.uk	£15
Genesis Project	(01232) 560 552	sales@gpl.net	www.gpl.net	£10
Global Internet	(0181) 957 1008	info@globalnet.co.uk	www.globalnet.co.uk	£7.50
GMTnet	(01509) 265 555	sales@gmtnet.co.uk	www.gmtnet.co.uk	£10
GreenNet	(0171) 713 1941	support@gn.apc.org	www.gn.apc.org	£13.50
Hiway	(01635) 550 660	info@inform.hiway.co.uk	www.hiyway.co.uk	£15
IBM Global Network	(0800) 973 000	internet_europe@ie.ibm.com	www.ibm.com	£10
Internet Central	(01270) 611 000	sales@netcentral.co.uk	www.netcentral.co.uk	£10
Internet Discovery	(0181) 694 2240	invent@idiscover.co.uk	www.idiscover.co.uk	£10
Internet Express	(01604) 670 500	marketing@netxpress.co.uk	www.netxpress.co.uk	£15
Internexus Communications	(01254) 699 030	postmaster@mail.internexus.co.uk	www.internexus.co.uk	£59.99/yr
Intonet	(01932) 828 333	info@intonet.co.uk	www.intonet.co.uk	£8.50
Ireland On-Line	00 353 1855 1739	sales@iol.ie	www.iol.ie	£10
I-Way	(0118) 958 0058	sales@i-way.co.uk	www.i-way.co.uk	£30/quarter
Karoo	(01482) 602742	info@karoo.net	www.karoo.net	£8.33
Ke-Connect Internet Services	(01449) 770 488	info@keme.net	www.keme.net	£10
KENTnet Internet Services	(01580) 890 089	sales@kentnet.co.uk	www.kentnet.co.uk	£15
LDS Technology	(01202) 659 991	sales@lds.co.uk	www.lds.co.uk	£14.99
Lunatech Research	(0118) 979 1900	info@luna.co.uk	www.luna.co.uk	£40/quarter
M.I.T.E	(0181) 881 2111	sales@mite.net	www.mite.net	£10
Macline	(0181) 401 111	orders@macline.co.uk	www.macline.co.uk	£12
Manx Computer Bureau	(01624) 623 841	postmaster@mcb.net	www.mcb.net	£8
Merlin Internet	(01724) 276 860	info@merlin.net.uk	www.merlin.net.uk	£15
Mistral Internet	(01273) 747 432	info@minstral.co.uk	www.mistral.co.uk	£9.99
Moose	(01923) 238 248	info@moose.co.uk	www.moose.co.uk	£10
NashMedia	(01703) 452 409	info@nashmedia.com	www.nashmedia.com	£15
Net Online	(0171) 447 7447	sales@n-e-t.co.uk	www.n-e-t.co.uk	£15
Netcom Internet	(01334) 395 600	info@netcomuk.co.uk	www.netcom.net.uk	£12.95
NetDirect Internet	(0171) 732 3000	info@ndirect.co.uk	www.ndirect.co.uk	£6.99
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NetHead	(0171) 207 1100	sales@nethead.co.uk	www.nethead.co.uk	£7.99
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NetTec	(0171) 460 0500	info@nettec.co.uk	www.nettec.co.uk	£12.50
net Village	(0181) 255 6777	info@netvillage.co.uk	www.netvillage.co.uk	£11.00
Neural Advantage	(01707) 390 839	neural.advantage @wta.net	www.wta.net/uk/computer. services/neural.advantage	£10-25

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NewNet	(01705) 647 400	sales@newnet.co.uk	www.newnet.co.uk	£5.88
Nildram	(01442) 891 331	sales@nildram.co.uk	www.nildram.co.uk	£5
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On-Line Entertainment	(0181) 558 6114	sysop@mail.on-line.co.uk	www.on-line.co.uk	£5
Onyx	(0345) 715 715	sales@onyxnet.co.uk	www.onyxnet.co.uk	£10
Paragon Software	(01635) 861 111	paragon@parasoft.co.uk	www.parasoft.co.uk	£11.50
Paston Chase	(01603) 502 061	sales@paston.co.uk	www.paston.co.uk	£10
Pavnet Internet Services	(01273) 834 000	sales@pavnet.co.uk	www.pavnet.co.uk	£50
PC User Group	(0181) 863 1191	info@win-uk.net	www.ibmpcug.co.uk	£15
Pinnacle Internet	(01293) 613 686	info@pncl.co.uk	www.pncl.co.uk	£14.50
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Planet Online	(0113) 234 5566	info@theplanet.net	www.theplanet.net	£100 ISDN
Poptel	(0171) 923 9465	info@poptel.net	www.poptel.org.uk	£10
Prestel On-Line	(0990) 233 300	enquiry@netsales.prestel.co.uk	www.prestel.co.uk	£8.99
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The Web Factory	(01344) 305 222	sales@webtv.co.uk	www.webtv.co.uk	£12.50
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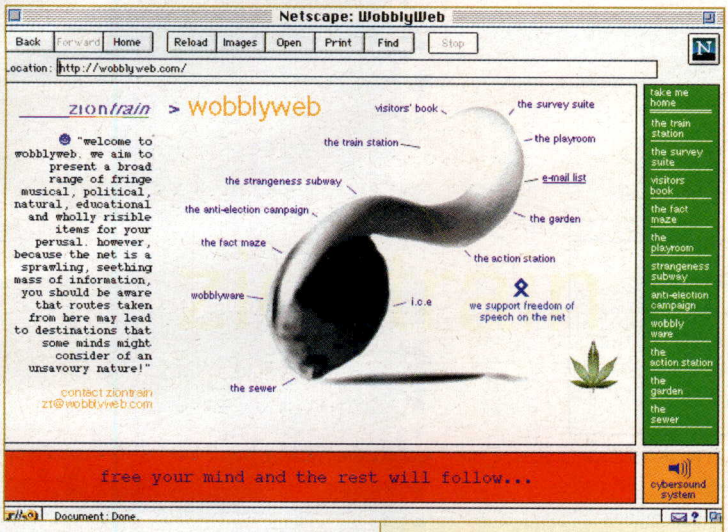
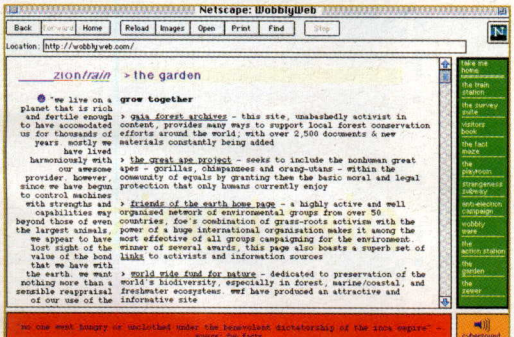
Zion Train Update

This month TOTAL INTERNET's resident techno-dubsters, Zion Train, discuss the importance of links and introduce us to their latest Internet project — NoiseNet.



Follow Zion Train's progress in constructing **NoiseNet** *by visiting their* **WobblyWeb** *site.*

We are currently assembling a new 'Music Centre' section for our Web site *WobblyWeb*. The first module to go on-line as part of this will be *NoiseNet* — a set of pages dedicated to noisemakers of the 20th Century, ranging from academics to industrialists and covering 97 years and thousands of artists and musicians. Our aim with *NoiseNet* is to compile an authoritative reference work on this vast subject — something that would take a very long time to complete if we were not undertaking it on the Net.

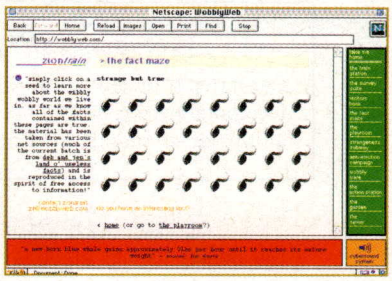


The magic sprites that are aiding us in this task are links —as yet the most beautiful manifestation of connectivity yet to be unleashed in our media whirlwind. With links you can make a point — through words or images — which is only understood when the reader arrives at a given destination. You can make extended references in a piece without interrupting the flow — just click on the keyword and zip to a full explanation before returning satisfied to where you left off.

Any writer will concede that background or related material often gets cut from even the most extended works because 'space will not allow...' but the dilemma of what to leave out becomes a distant memory for Webauthors. With links, we are able to augment the material we create, with direct connections to information provided by fans, friends, academics, gurus and — increasingly — the subjects themselves. We no longer have to contend with the lazy observations of overpaid journalists, now we can get straight to the real thing, created by those who care. And of course, if we feel strongly enough about a piece, we can contact the creator directly and let them know about it directly. It's a relationship that in fact has parallels with improvisational music — where many differing opinions and styles coincide, to create a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts.

The kind of 'Networking' that the earliest music-heads could only have dreamed of is ours now — for real.

In creating our *NoiseNet* module then, we plan to lay out the content and shape of the project, elect major headings and subsections and then decide which parts we wish to originate. We will then reach for the 'Search' button on our Web browser and surf until we fill in the gaps. The next pleasure is connecting with people from all across the planet with shared interests, swapping links and forming new relationships. We will be checking newsgroups like "alt.noise" and "rec.music.reggae" for localised gossip and announcements of new sites or news of interest. The kind of 'Networking' that the earliest music-heads could only have dreamed of is ours now — for real.



Once we have finished and get our pages online, the next step is simple — we will then register ourselves with several of the search engines to allow others to find us on their information missions and so the intricate Web of the Internet continuum is spun...

You can find Zion Train on the Web at http://wobblyweb.com or email them at zt@wobblyweb.com. Zion Train getting ready to go back "on the road", check the music press to see if they are playing near you!

Next Month

Just as you're catching your breath after a stunning issue six, we've got the lowdown on what to expect next month. Once again it's looking good, so join us next time...

Next time in TOTAL INTERNET...

Millennium Madness

As the millennium draws to an end, there seems to be an ever increasing interest in the bizarre and mystical. What role is the Internet playing in the dissemination of these unusual ideas? Our very own 'prophet of Doom', Sean Clark, investigates.

Electronic Communities

Gareth Lancaster discovers what it's like to 'settle' in a virtual community. In his special report he looks at 3D/ VRML spaces, the history of the virtual community and what the future holds.

Special Agents

We take a detailed look at agents and bots, focusing mainly on intelligent and semi-intelligent agents and the relationship between agents and computer viruses. How do they work? How can they enhance your surfing experience? What can they do for you? All these questions and more are answered in our in-depth report.

Internet Show Reports

Our intrepid reporters visit the forthcoming Comdex '97 show — incorporating the UK Internet Show — to bring you the lowdown on all the latest Internet innovations...

The Essential Selection

Our unique listings guide is an essential companion for any dedicated Net surfer. This is the place to come to discover the best sites to visit for all types of enthusiasts — from entertainment to sport to politics, this is the place to come.

The **June** issue of **TOTAL INTERNET** will be available from all good newsagents on **30th May — Don't miss it!**

TOTAL internet

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